

EMS General Assembly, 9th Session, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, 30 September 2007
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Report to the EMS General Assembly September 2007

Accreditation Committee

Chair: Howard Lyne (United Kingdom)

1. Mission/goals of the Committee

- To make recommendations to Member Societies of good practice in running Accreditation Schemes and how they may be introduced;
- To make recommendations to Member Societies on Codes of Good Practice and Ethical Behaviour of professional meteorologists;
- To recommend how such Accreditation Schemes and Codes of Good Practice followed by meteorologists of any Member Society, or Associate Member with its headquarters in Europe, may be recognised in any or all European countries.

2. Activities

- 2.1. An accreditation meeting was held on 7th September during EMS 6 in Ljubljana. Primarily it was a meeting of the Accreditation Committee, but with few members attending the conference, it was made open to all interested parties. The minutes are attached at Annexe A (referenced documents not included)
- 2.2. The meeting was dominated by discussion of the proposal for certification of aviation forecasters which had earlier been put to EMS Council by Dr David Bennetts of the proposed Eumetcal College. As noted in the minutes, the certification proposal was subsequently withdrawn at a meeting of Eumetnet, the owners of Eumetcal.
- 2.3. In response to the actions arising from the meeting:
 - a paper on resource implications of the certification proposals was prepared by the Chairman and circulated amongst members of the committee;
 - revised mission/goals of the Committee were agreed and presented for consideration at the 16th EMS Council meeting;
 - draft text for the Accreditation Committee web page was prepared and submitted.
- 2.4. A summary of the activities of the Accreditation Committee since its establishment was prepared. This was in response to an action placed on the Chairman at the 16th EC Council meeting following discussion of the Committee's terms of reference.
- 2.5. The Chairman of the Accreditation Committee participated in the meeting of the Strategy Implementation Group held in Reading on 27 and 28 June.

Howard Lyne
31 August 2007

Membership of Accreditation Committee

Howard Lyne (Chair, RMetS, United Kingdom)
Sergio Barbosa (APMG, Portugal)
Christophe Billard (SMF, France)
Magne Lystad (FM, Norway)
Marcello Pagliari (UNIMET, Italy)
Manuel Palomares (INM, Spain)
Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, Netherlands)
Dragan Radovanovic (MDS, Serbia)
Peter Rauh (SGM, Switzerland)
Clemens Simmer (DMG, Germany)
Sonja Vidic (HMD, Croatia)
Mark Žagar (SMD, Slovenia)

Annexe A
Accreditation Meeting, 7th September 2006

Location: Cankarjev dom Conference Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Participants: Howard Lyne (UK and Chair of the Accreditation Committee), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (Netherlands), Christophe Billard (France), Mark Zagar (Slovenia).

In attendance: Martina Junge (EMS Secretariat), David Bennetts (for item 4)

1. Introduction

The meeting was called by the Chair of the EMS Accreditation Committee and was publicised during the 6th EMS Conference and, prior to that, by e-mail to Committee members. Mark Zagar was welcomed onto the Committee as the representative for Slovenia. The meeting commenced at 16:30

2. Agree agenda

A draft agenda (Document 1) was circulated by the Chairman at the meeting and was agreed by those present.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting held at Utrecht (Document 2) were accepted. It was noted that the action on the Chairman to write to Gerald Fleming about the activities of the Committee had not been carried out. It was not felt necessary to carry over the action, particularly as it was noted that Gerald Fleming had been present at that meeting.

4. Certification scheme for European Aviation Forecasters

Dr Bennetts described his proposal (Document 3) which he had earlier outlined to EMS Council. He is seeking endorsement of the scheme by EMS as set out in the proposal. The EMS had reserved judgement pending the outcome of the Eumetnet meeting later in September, but had asked the Accreditation Committee to familiarise themselves with the proposal and to advise on whether to endorse the scheme and the appropriate level of EMS involvement.

After considerable discussion it was not clear how much involvement of the EMS in the certification process was appropriate and what the resource implications would be. In order to help inform the discussion it was decided that the Chairman should identify "extreme scenarios" (least EMS involvement, greatest EMS involvement) so that appropriate advice may be given to Council.

Action: Chairman

Post meeting note: at the EUMETNET meeting the weather services did not support the proposed Europe-wide certification of aviation forecasters.

5. Mission/goals of Committee

This item had been suggested by the Chairman after reviewing the current goals for his report to the General Assembly (Document 4). In view of the time (18:30), it was felt that this item could be best pursued by e-mail amongst the Committee.

Action: Committee members to comment on whether the existing goals/mission need updating and whether those set out in Document 4 may form the basis of such a revision.

On a more general theme, it was agreed that information about professional qualifications, and the associated legal framework within which member societies operate, should be made available through the updated EMS web site.

Action: Chairman (to elicit information from member societies), EMS Secretariat (to include in web site).

6. Any other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was closed at 18:30

Howard Lyne
Chairman, Accreditation Committee
September 2006