

4th EMS General Assembly
Brussels, Belgium, 14 November 2002
Minutes approved by the 5th General Assembly

Notes. A.: All votes are denoted as (x/y/z) wherein x is the number of votes cast in favour, y is the number cast against a point voted upon and z is the number of abstentions. These minutes follow the points of order according to the agenda.

B: The quorum of 10 Members present was met; in fact 18 representatives of Meteorological Societies and 6 observers and guests participated.

Present:

Entitled to vote

Tage Andersson (SMS, Norrköping), David Axford (EMS Vice President and Treasurer, RMS, Bracknell), Rasmus Benestad (FM, Oslo), Marjana Gajic-Capka (HMD, Zagreb), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Praha), Raino Heino (EMS Vice President, GS, Helsinki), Bogdan Kresojevic (MDS, Belgrade), Seijo Kruizinga (NVBM, Wageningen), René Morin (EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Manuel Palomares (AME, Madrid), Henrique de Oliveira Pires (APMG, Lisbon), Nicholas Prezerakos (HMH, Athens), Hans Richner (SGM, Zurich), Ernest Rudel (ÖGM, Vienna), Pavel Stasny (SMS, Bratislava), Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Friul), Sandor Szalay (MMT, Budapest), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

When the meeting started the quorum was met - several more participants arrived during its first hour, hence the varying participation in voting.

Observers/Guests

Stan Cornford (RMS, Bracknell), Stefano Micheletti (OSMER, Friul), Rick Rosen (President, American Meteorological Society, Boston), David Selway (WNI Oceanroutes, Aberdeen), John Thomson (WNI Oceanroutes, Aberdeen), Jon Wieringa (NVBM, Wageningen).

In attendance: Arne Spekat (EMS Executive Secretary, Berlin)

Beginning: 09:00 End: 12:00

1. Welcome

The EMS Past President René Morin chaired and formally opened the 4th EMS General Assembly. It was quite pleasing to see that the importance of the General Assembly was reflected in the number of participants. Subsequently, representatives and observers present briefly introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda, as it was presented to the Council Meeting was adopted by a vote of (13/0/0).

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 3rd General Assembly

The Minutes of the 3rd General Assembly in Budapest were accepted by a vote of (12/0/1).

4. The EMS-AMS Agreement

With the signature of an agreement between the European and the American Meteorological Societies the very good relationships were put to a new height. Both partners very much welcomed the agreement and the potential it has for the further development of their relations.

5. Reports of the EMS Bureau and Committees

The Bureau Members presented their reports. The subsequent discussion and the suggestions on a number of points raised are summarized here.

European Meteorological Calendar: It was proposed that Member Societies should place bulk orders and distribute the Calendar in their countries directly. Furthermore, it should be pondered if copies for potential authors of calendar contributions should be given away, or at least a technical document, e.g., with a set of author's instructions should be prepared. For some countries, including the U.K., the Calendar should be produced in a version on lighter paper, thus reducing postage. All Societies

were asked to consider submitting material on aviation meteorology, the topic of the 2004 European Meteorological Calendar.

Rule of Procedure, Council: The Rules of Procedure for the EMS Council ought to be presented to the EMS General Assembly and subsequently, a vote by correspondence at the General Assembly should be carried out.

6. Reports of the EMS Committees

The Committees then presented their reports. The subsequent discussion and the suggestions on a number of points raised are summarized here.

Accreditation: It might be worthwhile to seek co-operation with a lawyer, who must not necessarily be from Europe. Furthermore, adding a Committee Member from Hungary may be useful for the Committee's work. It should be kept in mind that it is still a long way to go to gain wide acceptance for an accreditation scheme. The AMS, for example has made good experience with holding training courses in conjunction with major conferences.

Awards: Currently, EMS is not in a position to have a substantial growth in the number of Awards presented. Among the conferences to be supported by these awards are the Mountain Meteorology Conference 2003 in Brig, the EWOC Conference in Madrid and the 3rd EMS Annual Meeting in Rome. It is envisaged to give the awards to Europeans initially and to expand the circle of recipients in the future. The modalities for 2003, the financial level of the awards and the age of those receiving them are to be fixed by a group consisting of the Awards Committee Chair Werner Wehry (DMG) and of Jan Bednar (CeMS), Ranato Carvalho (APMG) and René Morin (SMF).

Education: Unfortunately, the SOCRATES application has not been accepted. It remains to be seen if EU as a source for funding of this Committee's activities is a worthwhile source.

Meetings: Since the 3rd EMS Annual Meeting is about strategic planning, a letter will be sent to a number of possible players in weather services and private companies, asking for presenting their views. Beginning with the 4th Annual Meeting in Nizza, EMS will launch a new type of meetings - the structure will be altered from the current top-down to a bottom-up orientation. The EMS Annual Meeting will incorporate Europe-wide conferences such as ECAC or ECAM, among others. With respect to ECAC 2004 it was stated that EMS is seeking co-operation with the ECSN - following a decision of the IC-WED directors.

Publications: An EMS Publications Committee was started by a decision of the EMS Council on 12 November 2002. The Terms of Reference are added to these Minutes as Appendix A. It was suggested that the segment on available publications in the EMS web site should be expanded.

7. Involvement of EMS Members and Associates in the Committees' work

In the discussion following the reports of the EMS Bureau and the EMS Committees, a number of requests for improved future co-operation and activities were already stated and need not be repeated.

8. The Future of EMS Annual Meetings

This topic was discussed following the report of the Meetings Committee (see Section 6).

9. Membership

a) New EMS Members

The following Members have joined EMS since the last General Assembly: The Meteorological Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) "Meteo Mak", the Unione Meteorologica del Friuli-Venezia Giulia (UMFVG) which is the Meteorological Society of the Friuli region and Forskerforbundets meteorologiforening (FM) from Norway. They were welcomed into EMS by votes of (18/0/0) each of the EMS General Assembly.

In the meantime a number of Societies have approached EMS in order to become Members. These applications were discussed in Council, which recommended that they ought to be invited by a vote of the General Assembly. Resolution G15 with respect to the Aviation Meteorology Club from Bulgaria was passed (18/0/0). With respect to the application of two Meteorological Societies from Spain it was stated that settling for one delegate to represent the Members is required. This will, as the General Assembly was assured, not be a major problem. For any such case it was proposed that these applications are thoroughly studied and that the existing Member of such a country should be heard. The newly founded Group on Strategic Planning is asked to look into that matter. Resolution G19 with respect to the Associació Catalana de Meteorologia (ACAM) was voted (18/0/0). It was requested that ACAM ought to be informed that their invitation was supported by AME. Resolution G20 with respect to the application of the Asociación Española de Biometeorología (AEB) was then voted (17/0/1). The

Danish Meteorological Society is invited to join EMS by a vote of (18/0/0) on Resolution G21. A clarification is required with respect to the actual number of Members in DaMS.

b) Associate Members

EMS is glad to be accepted and supported by a growing number of organizations, weather services and companies. It shows that EMS became a common ground on which striving for the future of Meteorology is considered possible. Since the last General Assembly, six Associate Members have joined EMS: ESA (Associate with Permanent Observer status at the EMS Council), MeteoGnosis (Greece, Service Provider), KNMI (Netherlands, National Weather Service), Meteo Consult (Netherlands, Service Provider), The Met Office (U.K., National Weather Service) and OSMER (Friul Region, Service Provider).

Shortly before the EMS General Assembly the company VCS applied for Associate Membership. The General Assembly passed Resolution G22 (18/0/0) with respect to inviting VCS into EMS.

c) The EMS Membership Drive

A concerted activity is required to identify future Members and Associate Members. A co-ordinator for this Membership Drive, the EMS Past President, René Morin, and a deputy, the EMS Vice President Raino Heino were nominated by the EMS Council. Everyone is asked to submit candidates.

10. Finances

a) Report of the Treasurer

The 4th General Assembly marked the handing over of the EMS Treasurer post from Stan Cornford to David Axford; Stan Cornford presented his financial report. He underlined that from the beginning the EMS strategy was to take up no loans from anywhere and presented a promising outlook for the future. Resolution G23 with respect to the acceptance of his report was voted (17/0/1)

b) Prospects for 2003 and beyond

Stan Cornford proposed to generally continue in a similar way and to gently expand whilst watching the financial constraints. It was suggested and agreed that the Membership fee of 1 € per individual member should be continued. For the funding of its activities, EMS will have to rely on the input from Associate Members and on the Committees. Jon Wieringa remarked that the EMS Committees can also be looked upon as task forces, and that not all Committees will be able to become commercially successful – they, of course, will have to have the overall EMS budget in mind.

11. Composition of Council

the 4th EMS General Assembly also marked the end of the terms for several Councillor, whom the EMS President warmly thanked for their effort, initiative and activities: Alica Bajic (HMD), Jan Bednar (CeMS) and Raino Heino (GS). The 4th General Assembly voted Resolution G24 (16/0/2) and thus the following Councillors were elected: Pal Ambrozy (MMT), Otilia Diaconu (SMR) and Tomas Halenka (CeMS). Their terms will begin by the end of the year 2002 and they will first convene at the 8th EMS Council.

At the 7th Council Meeting, two days before the 4th General Assembly, the new Bureau was elected which consists of Werner Wehry (DMG, President), René Morin (SMF, Past President), David Axford (RMS, Vice President and Treasurer) and Raino Heino (GS, Vice President). René Morin summarized his term as the first President of EMS, bringing this Society to life and shaping its path towards the future. He handed over the presidential responsibilities and tasks to Werner Wehry, and will remain the EMS Past President for at least one year. The General Assembly thanked René Morin for all his vision and activities.

12. Miscellaneous

No proposals or motions.

13. Time and place of the next General Assembly

The 6th General Assembly will take place in Rome, September 2003 during the ECAM/EMS3-Conference.

René Morin closed the 4th EMS General Assembly at 12:30

Appendix A:

European Meteorological Society Publications Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Committee on Publications will recommend publication best practices and developments for the consideration of the EMS Council. The Committee shall pay attention to publications and practices already existing in Member Societies and other organisations in order to coordinate the development of an EMS policy aimed at facilitating the generation and distribution of scientific and technical information to a wide range of audiences.

Focus of activity

The Committee on Publications shall investigate and recommend activities within the following areas:

- The best publication practices used in Member Societies and other organisations;
- Web-based publication practices and possible coordination by the EMS;
- Cooperation with other Societies (outside EMS) on access to their publications;
- Provision of a catalogue and pricing information on Member Society publications and those of other Members;
- Publication distribution procedures used by Member Societies and other organisations;
- Linking of library catalogues of Member Societies and organisations and inter-library loan facilities;
- Production of specific EMS publications;
- Appropriate sources for production of EMS publications.

The Committee Members will not become involved directly with the publication process but will encourage the persons involved with publications in Member Societies and organisations to cooperate on sharing ideas and information of advantage to each other and also the EMS as a whole.

Rules of procedure

Members of the Publications Committee, including the Chair and vice-Chair are approved by the EMS Council for a period of two years and shall include at least one EMS Councillor. Members of the Committee, including, Chair and vice-Chair shall be eligible for one or more subsequent terms. The Committee may propose new members to the EMS Council.

In an initial phase, the Publications Committee will be chaired by Mike Phillips (EUMETSAT) until 31 January 2003. The EMS Executive Secretary, Arne Spekat, will serve as a committee Member. The future composition will have to take into account the proposals of the initial Committee Chairman's successor and the EMS Members.

The Committee on Publications will work mainly through computer links and telephone but may hold face-to-face meetings when necessary. Such meetings should, when possible, be at the times of other EMS meetings such as Council, annual meetings and conferences.

The Committee on Publications shall report to the EMS Council.

The Committee on Publications may propose a revised Terms of Reference to the EMS Council in the light of experience.

Appendix B:

Resolutions:

G15 Welcoming of the Meteorological Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

G16 Welcoming of Forskerforbundets meteorologiforening (FM)

G17 Welcoming of Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia

G18 Invitation to the Aviation Meteorological Club of Bulgaria

G19 Invitation to the Associació Catalana de Meteorologia (ACAM)

G20 Invitation to the Asociación Española de Biometeorología (AEB)

G21 Invitation to the Danish Meteorological Society

G22 Invitation to VCS Engineering to become Associate Member

G23 Acceptance of Treasurer Report

G24 New composition of EMS Council

RESOLUTION G15

This General Assembly decides to welcome the Meteorological Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G16

This General Assembly decides to welcome the Forskerforbundets meteorologiforening (FM) from Norway as new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G17

This General Assembly decides to welcome the Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia (UMFVG) from Italy as new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G18

The EMS Council proposes to the EMS General Assembly to extend an invitation to the Aeroclub of Bulgaria to become an EMS Member under the provision that the Annual Fee at present will be one Euro per member.

RESOLUTION G19

This General Assembly decides to invite the Associació Catalana de Meteorologia (ACAM) to become an EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G20

This General Assembly decides to invite the Asociación Española de Biometeorología (AEB) to become an EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G21

This General Assembly decides to invite the Dansk Meteorologisk Selskab to become an EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G22

This General Assembly decides to invite the company VCS Engineering to become an EMS Associate Member.

RESOLUTION G23

This General Assembly approves the Financial Report of the Treasurer.

RESOLUTION G24

This General Assembly decides that the following new Councillors are elected: Pal Ambrozy (MMT, Hungary), Otilia Diaconu (SMR, Romania), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Czech Republic)