

**10<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**  
28 September 2008  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Minutes

approved by the 11th General Assembly, 27 September 2009.

**Participants:** (voting representatives of EMS Societies/member states underlined)

Solfrid Agersten (NMF, Norway)  
Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)  
Manuel Rosa Dias (APMG, Portugal)  
Constanta Boroneant (RMS, Romania)  
David Burridge (Chair, RMetS UK)  
Tanja Cegnar (SMD Slovenia)  
Walter Dabberdt (AMS President, USA)  
Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Italy)  
Baranka György (MMT, Hungary)  
Tomáš Halenka (CmeS, Czech Republic)  
Raino Heino (GS Finland)  
Howard Lyne (RMetS, UK)  
Bahrz Melikov (AZANS, Azerbaijan)  
Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)  
Evangelina Oriol Pibernat (ESA)  
Claude Pastre (SMF France)  
Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)  
Vesna Petković (MDS, Serbia)  
Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)  
Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland)  
Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)  
Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany)  
Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Italy)  
Joanna Wibig (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)  
Walter Zwiefelhofer (ECMWF)

18 Representatives of EMS Member Societies were present - the quorum is 10. Votes are given as (acceptance : rejection : abstention).

Minutes: *Martina Junge, Executive Secretary*

Duration of meeting: 15:00 – 16:30

**1. Opening of session**

The President welcomed all participants to the General Assembly. He announced that the EMS Council has elected Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria) as the EMS President for the next three-year term and he was convinced that Fritz is an ideal qualified person to lead the EMS over the next three years.

**2. Acceptance of Agenda**

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (**Annex I**).

### **3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

The minutes of the 9th session of the EMS General Assembly (**Annex X**) were accepted unanimously.

### **4. Report of the President and the Bureau**

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council (**Annex II**). Printed copies of the EMS Annual Report 2007 were available at the meeting.

The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2007-September 2008 (Resolution **G79**: 18:0:0).

### **5. Report of the Executive Secretary**

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (**Annex III**) which were strongly focussed on the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2008. 770 abstracts had been received, 320 participants pre-registered for the conference and about 600 participants were expected. Due to the high costs for rooms and technical support at the conference centre, lower income expected from exhibitors, additional expenditure for gifts to convenors and cross-financing of the conference dinner from the conference budget, a substantial loss has to be expected which may to a large extent be covered by the financial support from KNMI for the conference.

### **6. Financial Report**

#### **6.1 Report of the Treasurer**

The Financial report as given by the Treasurer to the EMS General Assembly is provided in **Annex IV**; this includes the translation of the Report of the Auditor Frank Lucas for the accounts 2007.

The General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2007 of the Treasurer (Resolution **G80**: 18:0:0).

#### **6.2 Appointment Auditor**

The General Assembly appointed Frank Lucas, Berlin, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2008. (Resolution **G81**: 18:0:0).

### **7. Strategy Implementation Plan**

The Strategy Implementation Plan, as agreed upon by the EMS Council, was presented to the General Assembly (**Annex V**). It was noted that this plan will have major effects on the committee structure and operations. The establishment of the Policy Advisory and Development Group was considered as crucial for the future development of the activities of the EMS.

## 8. Membership

### 8.1 New Member Societies

The *Israel Meteorological Society* had applied for EMS Membership (**Annex VI**), and the General Assembly followed the EMS Council decision and welcomed the *Israel Meteorological Society* as a new EMS Member Society (Resolution **G82**).

### 8.2 New Associate Members

Since the last General Assembly in 2007, the *Norwegian Meteorological Institute* and the service provider *Wetter – Umwelt – Klima*, have applied for EMS Associate Membership, and the EMS Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> Session had welcomed both applications. The General Assembly welcomed the two organisations as EMS Associate Members (Resolutions **G83** and **G84**).

## 9. Council Composition

After this GA session the term of five EMS councillors will end, namely H. ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands), R. Heino (GS, Finland), V. Marletto (UNIMET, Italy), V. Petković (MDS, Serbia) and M.R. Dias (APMG, Portugal). On behalf of the EMS, the President expressed his gratitude for their work on the EMS Council.

### 9.1 Election of Council Members

The General Assembly elected the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, represented by Rolf Philipona (Resolutions **G85**), the Hellenic Meteorological Society, represented by Michael Petrakis (Resolutions **G86**), the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, represented by Fritz Neuwirth (Resolutions **G87**), the Association of Meteorology of Spain, represented by Fernando Aguado (Resolutions **G88**) and the Hungarian Meteorological Society, represented by Zoltan Dunkel (Resolutions **G89**), to serve on the EMS Council for the term 2008 – 2010.

All five resolutions were passed unanimously (18:0:0).

Fritz Neuwirth noted the EMS owes much to the outgoing president, David Burridge, who was central in the development of the strategy implementation plan and giving the EMS more profile and weight in the European meteorological community. The Vice President, Gerhard Steinhorst, gave a moving farewell address to the outgoing president (**Annex VIII**).

### 9.2 Welcome of representatives of Permanent Council Members

David Burridge informed the General Assembly that the RMetS has nominated Bob Riddaway as the future representative at the EMS Council and the General Assembly welcomed Bob Riddaway as a Councillor (Resolution **G90**). (18:0:0)

## 10. Activities of Member Societies and Associates

### **RMetS:**

The RMetS has decided to support the training and research at WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs) by donating its journals free of charge for the period 2008–2015. Of the 22 RTCs there are 14 that have taken up the offer of journals. It was suggested that other EMS Societies might consider developing similar contribution schemes.

The RMetS has developed initiatives to increase its membership and is happy to provide resources and give advice to other Societies.

### **SMF:**

The Société Météorologique de France also reported the problems it faces with shrinking membership and is interested in a wider discussion of this issue among the national meteorological societies.

### **NMF:**

The Norwegian Meteorological Society is in the process of developing a book on meteorology for children (6 – 10 years of age), approximately 70 pages long. It was discussed if it may be translated into other languages.

### **APMG:**

The Portuguese Association of Meteorology and Geophysics could report on an increase in its membership.

### **AME:**

The communication among the membership of the Spanish Meteorological Society has been improved through an improvement of the AME website; also the AME Bulletin has become more interesting and relevant for the membership (some copies were distributed at the EMS General Assembly). The “2<sup>a</sup> AME National Photography Contest” was announced.

AME organized several scientific meetings:

“The Atmosphere observation” exhibition (Zaragoza, 3-24 May 2008)

“Aula Morán” 2008-Meteorological conferences cycle

AME Annual Meeting. (Zaragoza, 3-7 may 2008)

“XXX AME Scientific Days”: 5-7 May

“8<sup>a</sup> Encuentro Nacional de Aficionados”: 3-4 May

The AME President was promoted to the Rectorate Council of AEMET, the new name of the Spanish National Meteorological Service.

### **HMS:**

The Greek Meteorological Society has co-organized the Thessaloniki International Conference together with the Thessaloniki University, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms. The President of HMS also underlined that a stronger involvement of the EMS in IPCC-relevant activities is required. The PADG is asked to consider and suggest appropriate activities.

### **SMR:**

The Romanian Meteorological Society reported on major contributions of its members to Chapter III and IV of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.

**EWOC:**

Tomas Halenka reported on the preparations of the Conference on Education in Weather, Ocean and Climate (EWOC), planned for 6 – 10 July 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. He asks all Member Societies and Associate Members to consider the support of the conference, for example through providing speakers.

**ESA:**

The [Earth Observation Handbook](#) – just released and available online – explains the vital role played by Earth observation satellites in providing the information needed by governments and policymakers to make well-informed decisions for a sustainable future. Prepared under the auspices of ESA on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the report provides an overview of existing Earth observation (EO) missions, their instruments and the plans of more than 30 space agencies for upcoming missions and instruments. It is the most up-to-date and comprehensive statement of governmental EO programmes available.

**Publications:**

The Communications Project Team Leader has asked all Member Societies and Associate Members to provide contributions to the next electronic *ems-message* by 25 November 2008. The relevance of this publication critically depends on input from the meteorological community.

## **11. International Forum of Meteorological Societies**

The American Meteorological Society has suggested that an International Forum of Meteorological Societies be established. Walter Dabberdt, AMS President, explained the background and aims of such an International Forum (**Annex IX**).

The idea of establishing such a forum was unanimously welcomed.

An initial planning meeting in conjunction with the 2009 Annual AMS Meeting to discuss the concept of an International Forum and to identify a few of the higher-interest topics leading to establishing a framework for future meetings is in preparation and the Council decided that the EMS should participate in this planning meeting with one of its officers. Also, EMS Member Societies were welcome to send representatives to this planning meeting.

## **12. AOB**

No issues were presented under this agenda item.

## **13. Time and Place of next General Assembly**

The 11th EMS General Assembly will be held in Toulouse, France, on 27 September 2009.

Martina Junge  
12 November 2008

**ANNEX A: Resolutions 10<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

**Resolutions:**

- G79 Approval of Bureau Report September 2007 -September 2008
- G80 Formal approval of Treasurer Report
- G81 Appointment of an auditor
- G82 Welcome of the Israel Meteorological Society as EMS Member Society
- G83 Welcome of the *Norwegian Meteorological Institute* as Associate Member
- G84 Welcome of the *WKU* as Associate Member
- G85 New Councillor Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland)
- G86 New Councillor Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)
- G87 New Councillor Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)
- G88 New Councillor Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)
- G89 New Councillor Zoltan Dunkel (MMT. Hungary)
- G90 Welcome New Councillor Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)

**RESOLUTION G79**

This General Assembly approved the Bureau report for the period September 2007-September 2008. (Entlastung)

**RESOLUTION G80**

This General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2007 of the Treasurer. (Entlastung)

**RESOLUTION G81**

This General Assembly appointed Frank Lucas as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2008.

**RESOLUTION G82**

This General Assembly welcomed the *Israel Meteorological Society* as a new EMS Member Society.

**RESOLUTION G83**

This General Assembly welcomed the *Norwegian Meteorological Insititute* as a new EMS Associate Member.

**RESOLUTION G84**

This General Assembly welcomed the private service provider *Wetter-Klima-Umwelt* as a new EMS Associate Member.

**RESOLUTION G85**

This General Assembly decided to invite Rolf Philipona to represent SGM, Switzerland, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2008 – autumn 2010.

**RESOLUTION G86**

This General Assembly decided to invite Michael Petrakis to represent HMS, Greece, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2008 – autumn 2010.

**RESOLUTION G87**

This General Assembly decided to invite Fritz Neuwirth to represent ÖGM, Austria, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2008 – autumn 2010.

**RESOLUTION G88**

This General Assembly decided to invite Fernando Aguado, to represent AME, Spain, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2008 – autumn 2010.

**RESOLUTION G89**

This General Assembly decided to invite Zoltan Dunkel, to represent MMT, Hungary, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2008 – autumn 2010.

**RESOLUTION G90**

This General Assembly welcomed Bob Riddaway as representative of the Royal Meteorological Society, UK, on the EMS Council.