

10th Meeting of the EMS Council
Bucharest, Romania, 22 March 2004
Minutes approved by the 11th Council Session

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 7 Councillors present was met. In fact 8 Councillors were present.

Present:

Councillors

Pal Ambrozy (MMT, Budapest), David Axford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMS, Reading), Otilia Diaconu (SMR, Bucharest), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Praha), Raino Heino (EMS Vice President, GS, Helsinki), René Morin (EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Rosa Maria Rodriguez (AME, Spain), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

Observers/Experts/Guests

Evangalina Oriol-Pibernat (observer, ESA), Bob Riddaway (Chair, EMS Publications Committee).

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

Apologies: Nicholas Prezerakos (HMH, Greece)

Beginning: 09:00 End: 17:30

1. Welcome

The meeting began with a welcome address by Ion Poiana Director-General of the Romanian National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (INMH). The importance of EMS was underlined and it was announced that the Comitetul Directiv al INMH analyzes the possibility to become an Associate Member of EMS. Werner Wehry then formally opened the Council Meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked the INMH for the invitation to Bucharest and for hosting the Council Session at its headquarter. As for EMS, the important next step is to organize and hold a successful Annual Meeting in September 2004 in Nice; a major effort is required by all in the months ahead towards this conference.

In honour of the key person of the International Weather Festival and Member of the EMS Media Committee, Francois Fandoux, who died in October 2003 and in commemoration of the victims of the Madrid terrorist attacks, the EMS President asked for a minute's silence.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

It was proposed to put item 7 before item 6 on the Agenda; with these changes it was accepted by a vote of (8/0/0).

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 9th Council Meeting

A change in the Minutes of the 9th Council Meeting in Rome was requested. Paragraph 4.3 should begin as follows (added words *in italics*): The EMS Council thanked the outgoing Chair of the EMS Committee, *Dominique Marbouty* for his energetic input... With this modification the Minutes were accepted by a vote of (8/0/0).

4. Reports of Bureau and Secretariat

Among the steering and consulting activities reported was a meeting of the EMS President and the Chair of the EMS Education Committee with top representatives of the American Meteorological Society during the 84th AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle. As a consequence, the contacts between EMS and AMS with respect to their education activities will be strengthened and AMS will play a role in the upcoming EMS Annual Meeting in Nice.

All Bureau Members were involved in the preparation of the 4th EMS Annual Meeting, e.g., as conveners of sessions, assisting in the identification of lecturers and exhibitors or preparing the Round Table on publications.

A number of activities by all Bureau Members was directed towards increasing the EMS Membership/Associate Membership. The Deutscher Wetterdienst will join in 2004 and further Weather Ser-

vices (e.g., Italy, Belgium, Romania) and companies (e.g., MODEM, Scintec and others) have either been contacted or are in the process of becoming Associate Members. There was a request to produce material which outlines the process of Members and Associate Members joining EMS.

The EMS Executive Secretary had been active in administrative, and, to a growing degree, in contents matters. Among those is the close co-operation with the Copernicus Organization with respect to the 4th and other future EMS Annual Meetings, the work in the Advisory Board of the ECAC-Conference (part and partner at the 4th EMS Annual Meeting) or presenting the EMS Annual Meeting to the COST Programme.

5. EMS Committees

Note: The Chairs of the Committees should, for each Council Meeting and General Assembly, submit their reports about 6-8 weeks in advance for timely inclusion in the information and working material. Each report should include the current Committee membership.

5.1 Accreditation

The Chair of the Accreditation Committee, David Axford, reported that the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) system, which deals with the standards for forecasters, became officially recognized for all of Europe by the end of 2003. It should be noted that the NVQ is by no means a national status (and by no means mandatory, e.g., in the U.K.) and that it is open to everyone, provided the appropriate evidence to acquire it can be presented. One of the tasks of the Accreditation Committee is inform the EMS Members about the implications. A more general task for all of EMS should be to further and support the Accreditation Committee activities, keeping in mind the quality of meteorological information conveyed to the public.

Both, a presentation of the Accreditation Committee, and a potential Committee Meeting are foreseen for the 4th EMS Annual Meeting in Nice. Furthermore, in Nice, the Session on education is planned to have an accreditation segment.

Committee's composition: The EMS Executive Secretary is requested to inquire the status of the Committee Member from the Austrian Meteorological Society. Raino Heino will verify the accreditation situation in the Nordic countries continue to look for a potential Committee Member. According to the Spanish Councillor there are major changes to the Spanish education systems which, consequently, makes it desirable to have a Spanish Member in the Accreditation Committee.

5.2 Awards

The Chair of the EMS Awards Committee, Werner Wehry, reported that the launch of the the EMS Young Scientist Award in 2003, presented during the 3rd Annual Meeting in Rome, has been very successful. Furthermore, EMS gains visibility and recognition by generally being active in giving awards and in particular by assigning a number of Young Student Travel Awards to several conferences. The price money for 2004 is exceptionally large, since, as an outstanding support, ECMWF assigned an extra sponsorship to EMS. Appendix B summarizes the distribution of the Awards budget to various conferences in 2004.

Committee's composition: The Committee Chair thanked Renato Carvalho, APMG (Portugal), for his Committee Membership; he will be followed by Evangelina Oriol-Pibernat (ESA).

5.3 Education

The Committee Chair Tomas Halenka reported about the contacts to a proposed educational network, ESPERE, which was planning to apply for EU funding in autumn 2003 but withdrew. Its successor will be EIROFORUM, which also has good contacts to ESA. Furthermore, setting up the data base for EC-TOM II in Praha makes good progress and accompanying material was presented to Council.

The quite successful contribution of the Committee Members to the EWOC Conference 7-11 July in Madrid will be summarized in an issue of the EMS Publication Series. The EMS Executive Secretary currently collects and edits the manuscripts.

The next milestone of the Committee will take place during the 4th EMS Annual Meeting in Nice. There are plans to cover three themes in the education session: (i) The role of meteorology in school curricula; (ii) co-operation and accreditation and (iii) computer-aided learning in meteorology.

5.4 Media

The Committee Chair, Tanja Cegnar, had submitted a report about the ongoing activities of the EMS Media Committee since its meeting in Rome on 15 September 2003. Sadly, the French delegate in the Committee, Francois Fandoux, had passed away in October 2003 and the future of the International Weather Festival, of which he was the key person, is unclear. This includes, according to a report by

the EMS Past President, René Morin, the future role of the heirs of Francois Fandoux, the Fondbleu Organization and the mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux. In order to keep the momentum and to have a meeting for presenters, augmented by an event for the general, the Rencontre International de la Météorologie (RIM) will be held 14-17 October 2004 at the Cité de la Science et de L'Industrie in Paris. WMO has signalled to continue its support. EMS had been approached for support: Most probably EMS will further RIM by funding the travelling of the EMS Media Committee Chair, as well as by giving travel support through an EMS (Media) Award. Council welcomed the fact that a continuity is being established.

In 2004, several major events at the interface of meteorology and media are held: (i) The 1st World Broadcast Meteorology Conference in Barcelona (beginning of June) – AME may be present at the Conference, to be verified by the Spanish Councillor; furthermore direct contacts should be established between the ESA representative, Evangelina Oriol-Pibernat and the EMS Media Committee Chair with respect to journalism training. (ii) A media session at the 4th EMS Annual Meeting in Nice (end of September). (iii) The RIM in Paris (mid-October).

5.5 Meetings

On behalf of the EMS Meeting's Committee Chair, Hans Sandebring, the EMS Executive Secretary gave a presentation on the progress of the 4th Annual Meeting in Nice and the preparations for the 5th Annual Meeting, to be held in 2005 in Utrecht.

For the 4th Annual Meeting, the Call for Programme had been yielded extra sessions and modifications to the draft programme. The European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC), part and partner in Nice had evaluated the Call for Programme at a meeting of its Advisory Board (EAB) on 15 and 16 January 2004 in Nice, in which the EMS Vice President, Raino Heino, and the EMS Executive Secretary participated. In early February 2004, the Call for Papers for the 4th Annual Meeting (including ECAC) had been launched. It will remain open until 23 May 2004. The EMS President has put a major effort into building the joint opening session of the Annual Meeting (see Appendix C). The EMS Past President is organizing the Round Table on the Future of Publications. Further activities concerning the 4th Annual Meeting are covering (i) making the Annual Meeting as well known as possible, (ii) familiarizing conveners, as well as potential participants with the conference organization structure and web tools. For both latter aspects, the EMS Executive Secretary has produced information material and guidelines. The main information hub is the web site www.emetsoc.org/EMS4 and the meeting's web site with, e.g., programme information, submission of abstracts and registration templates is at www.copernicus.org/ems/2004

The 5th Annual Meeting's preparation process had started in 2003, when during the ECAM6, a country has been agreed upon and further details had been discussed at a lunchtime meeting at the end of the ECAM. In October 2003 (Amsterdam) and in February 2004 (de Bilt) further planning has been carried out. With the assistance of the Copernicus Organization the Jaarbeurs Conference Centre has been identified as the conference venue.

5.6 Publications

The Publication Committee Chair, Bob Riddaway presented a paper, intended to lay the foundations for the work of the Publication Committee. The paper was drafted together with the EMS Executive Secretary during and following his visit to Berlin 5-6 February 2004.

EMS Journal: A central item remains that of fulfilling EMS' responsibility and gaining visibility as well as launching a source of income by way of an EMS journal. It should be kept in mind that there is no journal without a gap in the market. Existing journals could benefit from the existence of EMS.

EMS Publication Series: A feasible way of working towards maintaining and improving scientific standards is continuing the EMS Publication Series. In light of the changes in the EMS Annual Meeting, effective from 2004 on, the purpose, as well as the profile, of the Publication Series must be re-examined. One target group could be in the meteorological institutes – they would be interested in, e.g., important keynotes from a conference. Yet, a publication series should also serve as a podium for the conference sessions. The texts published may be reviewed by the conveners and the publication itself may appear partly or exclusively in electronic form. It would be a task of the Publications Committee to devise an editorial policy and update the instructions for authors of the EMS Publication Series.

EMS Newsletter: The concept to have a printed medium with timely information was controversially discussed. In particular the penetration and the timeliness of the Newsletter, once it is reaching the readers, is difficult to determine. If the Newsletter is to be continued, it should be appearing more often, e.g. four times a year, and be a lot shorter, e.g., at maximum of eight pages length. It was suggested that the basic version should be produced for the web and that hardcopies should be made

only for those who specifically request them. Information about EMS can also be published through other media, e.g., other Newsletters.

EMS Website: Arguably, timely news and reports are better placed on the internet, as well as longer essays. Furthermore, it should be kept in mind that the web might be the primary medium for the EMS Publication Series.

EMS flyers and other publication material: With EMS' comparably small budget in mind it may be affordable to produce such material – yet the distribution would be a major cost factor. Production of virtual and/or printed flyers for EMS Annual Meetings is definitely a must. Examples of such “virtual flyers” exist for the 4th EMS Annual Meeting and the 5th ECAC Conference.

Committee's composition: The EMS Publication Committee is in a stage of self-organization. Every Society and Associate Member must be given the chance to participate and is asked to nominate Committee Members; it was proposed that some members of the Committee could be editors of the EMS Publication Series or the Newsletter.

5.7 Mission Statement/Strategic Development Group

Based on the material originally prepared for the 9th EMS Council in Rome the size and role of the Strategic Development Group (SDG) was discussed. It is favoured that the SDG should be a small team supporting EMS and helping it develop visions. It should not be congruent with the EMS Bureau and contain members who stand for continuity and EMS' future. Currently, the core of the SDG consists of René Morin, Stan Cornford and Werner Wehry. Useful other members could be the EMS Executive Secretary as well as one or two personalities from Associate Members.

6. Finances

6.1 Financial Report

The EMS Treasurer reported about the state of the EMS finances and presented the budget projection for the remainder of 2004, as well as for 2005 (see section 6.2). The Executive Secretary announced that an audit of the EMS records, bookkeeping and account will take place on 8 April 2004 in the EMS Secretariat. The auditor will be lawyer and tax advisor Frank Lucas.

The Treasurer was thanked for his work and Resolution C62 was voted (7/0/1).

6.2 Financial Planning

It was noted that the trend, observed over past years, continues: EMS increases its activities and yet the raise in expenditure is not fully compensated by a raise in income. This overspending will ultimately lead to a quite difficult financial situation if EMS does not consider restraint in its own spending. In addition, eventually, it will be necessary to discuss a moderate raise in the membership fee. This should begin at the Council Meeting and General Assembly in Nice in September 2004 and should continue into 2005.

An other potential lies in the introduction of individual membership; this issue was controversially discussed, yet a potential solution could involve that the future individual member must at first be a member of a Member Society and in addition could become EMS Member but only if she/he remains in the National Society. René Morin and Stan Cornford from the Strategic Development Group were particularly thanked for giving this issue considerable thought. Any strategic decision with respect to changes in Membership Fee as well as individual Membership should be taking into account the change in EMS Presidency at the end of 2005.

During the EMS Council in Rome it was discussed whether further Associate Members could join if a modified, sliding scale for the annual fees is introduced, which takes the size of the company via the number of employees into account. Such a decision must be made at a General Assembly and therefore a resolution for the 6th Assembly in Nice shall be prepared. One small company – MODEM from France – would join EMS in 2005 under the condition that the annual Associate Membership fee would be lower than the current 1000 €. As a signal to MODEM, the company will receive a lower rate for the exhibition booth at the 4th EMS Annual Meeting in Nice. René Morin is asked to discuss this matter with the director of MODEM.

Council thanked the EMS Treasurer for the financial planning document and Resolution C63 was voted (7/0/1).

7. Membership

7.1 New Member Societies and Associate Members

With respect to Member Societies, there is only a very small number of potential Members known to EMS. The Catalan Meteorological Society (ACAM) who expressed interest and was invited to join will be contacted again by AME. There is an other potential Member from Spain, the Climatological Society - the EMS Executive Secretary has initiated a contact to them. He reported about progress concerning the Polish Geophysical Society, where discussions to find solution enabling them to join EMS are intensified. Raino Heino reported that he is the contact person of the Nordic Societies to the Baltic States who have not yet formed a Meteorological Society.

The Executive Secretary furthermore reported about a vote by correspondence concerning the Associate Membership of the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD). The result was unanimous and Resolution C65 was passed (8/0/0) welcoming DWD as the 19th EMS Associate Member.

7.2 Membership drive

The EMS Membership drive is ongoing and it was requested that names of potential Members and Associate Members ought to be submitted to those responsible for the Membership drive, i.e., René Morin and Raino Heino. It should be acknowledged that a slight chance for similar interests of EMS and National Meteorological Societies exists in single cases with respect to potential Associate Members.

8. Statements of EMS

The EMS President reported about a discussion at the final session of the symposium held in November 2003 in Brussels to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first meteorological conference in 1853. Many organizations, including EMS were encouraged to issue statements. Council discussed this matter; a general philosophy should take into account that EMS should be given more time to gain the necessary weight for issuing such statements. They should be issued in a spirit of comprehensiveness and agreement among EMS Members and Associates. A feasible future mechanism could be that Council proposes such a statement text to a General Assembly, which votes upon it. The issue is to be further discussed within the Strategic Development Group.

9. Miscellaneous

The EMS reported on a letter by the Meteorological Society from India – also brought to the attention of a number of other Societies and distributed to the Councillors prior to the Bucharest Meeting – in which a Consortium of Meteorological Societies (COMETS) was proposed. During his stay at the 84th AMS Annual Meeting in January 2004, he discussed this matter with Members of the AMS Board. It was generally agreed that the invitation came late and had too little background information as to the aims and strategies of such a consortium, in particular with respect to the role of WMO and of scientific Societies. Furthermore, the name itself was considered to be misleading. Prof. Srivastav, the initiator of the COMETS activity, is the official representative of India at WMO. Council resolved to develop an informal relationship with this activity.

10. Time and place of the next Council Session and General Assembly

The 11th EMS Council will convene in Nice on Sunday 26 September 2004; it is foreseen that the duration will be from 9:00-13:00. The 6th EMS General Assembly will take place on 26 September as well; it is foreseen that it will convene from 15:00-18:00. The exact location will be given in due time.

Werner Wehry closed the 10th EMS Council Meeting at 17:45.

Arne Spekat

Appendix A

Resolutions

C62 Approval of Treasurer's report
 C63 Approval of financial planning
 C64 Welcome of DWD as Associate Member

C62
 This Council approves the Report of the Treasurer.

C63
 This Council approves the projected EMS budget for 2004.

C64
 The EMS Council invites the Deutscher Wetterdienst to become an Associate Member.

Appendix B

Assignment of EMS Awards to conferences in 2004

Awards	Amount (€)	Number	Total (€)
Eumetsat Praha	300	1	300
Broadcast Barcelona	400	1	400*possibly EMS4
Mountain, New Hampshire	500	3	1500
History, Polling	300	1	300
EMS4, Nice	400	6	2400
ECSS, Leon	300	3	900
RIM, Paris	700	1	700
ERAD, Gotland	400	1	400
EMS YSA	1000	1	1000
EMS YSA TRAVEL	600	1	600
		Sum	8500

Appendix C

Lecturers at the opening session of the 4th EMS Annual Meeting

1. Michel Jarraud, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization
2. Kevin Stenson, Rheinisch-Westfälische Energie-Agentur (RWE)
3. Jozse Rakovec, Chair of the COST Technical Committee
4. Berthold Metzger, Consultant, PriceWaterhouseCoopers
5. Jean-Francois Minster, IFREMER