

**6<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**  
**Nice, France, 26 September 2004**  
**Minutes accepted by 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, De Bilt, 11 Sep, 2005**

*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 17 (after 14:30 18 and after 16:45 again 17) representatives of Meteorological Societies and 12 observers and guests participated.*

**Present:**

**Entitled to vote**

Pal Ambrozy (MMT, Budapest), David Axford (EMS Vice President and Treasurer, RMS, Bracknell), Rasmus Benestad (FM, Oslo), Constanta Boroneant (SMR, Bucharest [from 14:10 to 16:45]), Renato Carvalho (APMG, Lisbon), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Ljubljana), Carla Eggertson (SMS, Sweden), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Prague), Raino Heino (GS, Helsinki), Nikos Karatarakis (HMH, Athens), René Morin (SMF, Paris), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, de Bilt), Hans Richner (SMG, Zurich), Rosa Maria Rodriguez (AME, Madrid), Pavel Stastny (SMS, Bratislava), Reinhold Steinacker (ÖGM, Vienna), Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Visco, UD [from 14:30]), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

**Observers/Guests**

Solfrid Agersten (FM, Oslo), Hans Alexandersson (SMS, Norrköping), Susan Avery (AMS, Boulder [from 14:25]), Stan Cornford (RMS, Bracknell), Mark Hackett (MetOffice, Exeter), Dominique Marbouty (ECMWF, Reading), Antonio Mestre (AME, Madrid), Stefano Micheletti (OSMER, Visco UD [from 14:10]), Pavol Nejedlik (COST, Brussels), Evangelina Oriol-Pibernat (ESA, Frascati), Richard Pettifer (RMS, Bracknell), Ernest Rudel (ZAMG, Vienna).

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

Beginning: 14:05 End: 17:40

**1. Welcome**

The EMS President Werner Wehry chaired and formally opened the 6<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly. Traditionally the General Assemblies were held in conjunction with the EMS Annual Meetings (as soon these began to exist) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Nice marked a departure from the past since for the first time it was held in a much expanded scope. It was noteworthy that the upward participation trend for the General Assembly continued, the quorum was again impressively surpassed, and that a record number of observers and guests, including representatives from AMS and COST, were present, underlining the importance of the General Assembly. The welcome address was followed by brief introductions of the participants.

**2. Acceptance of the Agenda**

With a minor change (the term "Exoneration" was replaced by "Clearance" for item 5) the Agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was adopted by a vote of (17/0/0); it is annexed as Appendix A.

**3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Rome were accepted by a vote of (16/0/1). The need for an updated Mission Statement was phrased by the General Assembly.

**4. Reports of the EMS Bureau and Secretariat**

The EMS Bureau and the EMS Executive Secretary reported about activities since the last General Assembly.

*The EMS President, Werner Wehry*, underlined that contacts to current and future Associate Members were intensified, e.g., by attending celebrations in the U.K., the Netherlands and Romania. He pointed out the high importance of a successful EMS Annual Meetings series.

*The EMS Past President, René Morin*, reported about his participation in the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting; he furthermore is involved in matter of media meteorology, e.g., at the Meeting of experts in Barcelona and as the link to the International Weather Forum in Paris.

*The EMS Treasurer, David Axford*, reported about his activities with respect to accreditation. As treasurer, he pointed out that the audit for 2003 now has been completed.

*The EMS Vice President, Raino Heino*, reported about his work for the ECAC Advisory. He was also active in attracting the Geofysikkian Liitto (Finnish Association of Geophysics) to join EMS as a Member.

*The EMS Executive Secretary, Arne Spekat*, reported about his administrative and scientific activities. The former consist mostly of communication, bookkeeping and web mastering, as well as being the Secretary for several EMS Committees. The latter include working for the EMS Meetings Committee, i.e., the direct involvement in the organization of the EMS Annual Meeting and the work in steering bodies of part and partner conferences. Furthermore, he is chairing two sessions and gives a lecture at the 4<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting. Other scientific activities include the work for the Education, the Media and the Publications Committee. Through a generous grant from ECMWF and Eumetsat, it was possible to raise the Executive's salary for half a year, reflecting the extra amount of work necessary for the launch of the EMS Annual Meeting in its expanded form.

### **5. Approval of the activities of the Bureau (Clearance)**

Admittedly, a fact required by the German Society Law (Vereinsrecht) had been overlooked in the past years, which is the clearance of the Bureau (German: Entlastung des Vorstands). This was pointed out by the auditor who requested the clearances for 2000 until 2003 to be made by a vote of the General Assembly. The EMS Executive explained the legal background of the clearance to the General Assembly. He then formally requested clearance, based on the reports of the Bureau to previous General Assemblies. It should be noted that these were not completely available in written form, since at past General Assemblies, some reports were given orally.

Resolution G31 (for 2003) was voted (13/0/5).

Resolution G32 (for 2002) was voted (11/0/7).

Resolution G33 (for 2001) was voted (13/0/5).

Resolution G32 (for 2000) was voted (13/0/5).

### **5. Activity reports of the EMS Committee Chairs**

*Accreditation:* The Chair, David Axford, reported about the scheme for Chartered Meteorologists which is now accepted Europe-wide. It is noteworthy that the meteorological profession and its standards are in the hand of professionals. In the subsequent discussion it was reported from the United States that there is significant progress towards a new qualification scheme for certified meteorologists and media meteorologists. The preparations shall be completed in 2005.

*Awards:* The Chair, Werner Wehry, reported about the generous grant from ECMWF and Eumetsat which enabled EMS to sponsor a larger number of Awards than initially was foreseen for 2004. Furthermore, over 25 participants received support through the Annual Meeting's funds. The EMS Young Scientist Award could be given for the second time (presented during the opening of the EMS Annual Meeting). For 2005, giving the Young Scientist Award as well as about a dozen Travel Awards to the Annual Meeting and other conferences will again be possible. The ECAM organizers at KNMI and MeteoConsult will sponsor awards, and there is a potential for further company-related awards.

*Education:* The Chair, Tomas Halenka, reported about the preparations for an education session at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Furthermore, the ECTOM II (European Catalog of Training Opportunities) data base has been set up. It will be filled with information about meteorology education in European countries at the university level, including full courses and individual lectures. It is open for entries from the Weather Services training programmes, too. In order to collect and evaluate the information, national contact points are needed. These will be identified by the Education Committee. A brief description of ECTOM to be translated into other languages is under development.

*Media:* The Chair, Tanja Cegnar, reported about the ongoing activities with respect to improved networking. Experts from the International Association of Broadcast Meteorologists (IABM), WMO, the International Weather Forum (IWF), AMS and EMS had met during the First World Broadcast Meteorology Conference in Barcelona. The topic is complex and as a first step, the Media Session at the 4<sup>th</sup>

EMS Annual Meeting has been organized in co-operation with IABM and will have several solicited IABM-speakers. Plans are made to have a Media Session during the 5<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting as well.

*Meetings:* The Chair of the Meetings Committee, Hans Sandebring, has retired from this post. EMS is deeply indebted to him and his activities, particularly in the preparation phase of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. On behalf of the Meetings Committee, the EMS Executive Secretary pointed out that in 2004, the EMS Annual Meetings became substantially larger in scope. The first three Annual Meetings in Budapest, Brussels and Rome were essentially symposia in conjunction with either the European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) or the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2004 was planned and carried out as a scientific conference with oral and poster sessions, as well as several symposia on featured topics with a focus on applications. The ECAC Conference was hosted as part and partner and the EMS Vice President Raino Heino, as well as the Executive Secretary were working in the ECAC Advisory Board which is ECAC's steering body, to ensure good linkage and integration. Contacts with other conference series, e.g. the European Conference on Radar Meteorology (ERAD), the European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) are ongoing. He furthermore pointed out the practical synergy that came with the contacts to the COST Programme of the European Science Foundation: Since a sizeable number of scientist from COST Actions had submitted papers to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting's sessions, COST used the opportunity to hold group meetings of several of its Actions, as well as a Meeting of its Technical Committee in Nice. Many participants' travel expenses were covered by COST, enlarging the actual number of participants in the Annual Meeting which otherwise might not have been able to attend. The 5<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting is under preparation. It will take place 12-16 September 2005 in Utrecht (Netherlands). Part and partner in 2005 will be the 7<sup>th</sup> ECAM Conference. As in 2004, EMS co-operates with Copernicus Society on organizational matters.

*Publications:* The Chair, Bob Riddaway, underlined the complexity of the publication matter, in particular with respect to the internet development. This aspect was discussed in detail at the Round Table on the Future of Publication, held during the Annual Meeting. Since there were no direct post-conference for the EMS 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting foreseen, the policy was that the conveners were asked to consider such publications and to consider publishing them in Journals which are in conjunction with Meteorological Societies. It was requested that for future Annual Meetings extended abstract should be offered with the conference material.

## **7. Membership**

### **7.1 Modification of the EMS Associate Membership Fee structure**

One of the experiences of the Membership Drive has been that potential Associate Members are willing to join EMS and yet, owing to their size, cannot afford the full Associate Membership Fee. Council had drafted and recommended a sliding scale with five levels, according to the number of employees reported by the company. This measure is of advantage, since it improves the income situation and gives EMS further visibility. Resolution G35 was voted (18/0/0).

### **7.2 Welcome of new EMS Members**

Currently there are no new Members. The EMS Vice President, Raino Heino reported about an application of the Geofyysikkojen Liitoo (Finnish Association of Geophysics) which probably will become Members from 2005 on.

### **7.3 Welcome of Associate Members**

Since the last General Assembly, the German Weather Service (DWD) and the Royal Meteorological Institute (RMI) in Brussels have become Associate Members. Resolution G36 was voted (18/0/0) and Resolution G37 was voted (18/0/0) and thus both have been formally welcomed. Both will have observer status at the General Assembly and the EMS Council (in the latter as members of the group of National Meteorological Services). It was reported that the companies MODEM and Campbell Scientific have applied to become Associate Members.

## **8. Finances**

### **a) Report of the Treasurer**

The EMS Treasurer, David Axford, presented his financial report. He mentioned the 2003 audit which acknowledged EMS' activity as a public charity and recommended it for sustained tax-favoured status. From the ensuing discussion emerged a request for more comprehensive documentation in future financial reports which improve the continuity. The Treasurer's report was approved and Resolution G38 was voted (17/0/0).

## **b) Prospects for 2005 and beyond**

The Treasurer presented his financial planning. The expansion of the EMS Annual Meeting is a major challenge. Yet it bears the potential of some income whereas the risk potential is minimized by the cooperation with the Copernicus Organization. The Treasurer made aware that there is a trend towards a decreasing balance in the next years. It should, however, be pointed out that under German taxation laws, the EMS can only retain a sum necessary to remain solvent or money "earmarked" for an announced purpose at the end of a year. In the subsequent discussion, a request was made for more detailed financial prospect documents to be presented at future General Assemblies. The financial plan was approved.

It was proposed that for 2004, Frank Lucas, the tax lawyer of the EMS, should be appointed again as auditor. Resolution G39 was voted (16/0/1).

## **9. Composition of Council**

Three Councillors who had served successfully and with great enthusiasm during their two-year term and whom the EMS President warmly thanked for their effort, initiative and activities are leaving Council by the end of the year: Pal Ambrozy (MMT), Otilia Diaconu (SMR) and Tomas Halenka (CeMS). Three new Councillors are invited for two year terms. The 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly voted as follows:

Resolution G40 – Rasmus Benestad – (14/1/2).

Resolution G41 – Tanja Cegnar – (17/0/0).

Resolution G42 – Heleen ter Pelkwijk – (16/0/1).

Their terms will begin by the end of the year 2004 and they will first convene at the 12<sup>th</sup> EMS Council.

## **10. Membership within EMS Member Societies**

The General Assembly is a forum for discussing matters of joint interest to the Membership. As an example, the Swiss Society for Meteorology (SGM) reported about an elaborate activity. It encompassed letters, signed by well-known scientists, in which the benefits of Membership were described. As a result, the SGM Membership could be enlarged by about 50%.

The discussion subsequently became broader and extended to ways and means to enlarge the EMS Membership and the number of EMS Associate Members. With respect to Member Societies, almost all known Societies are present; in a few countries the foundation of Societies should be encouraged. Identifying and addressing potential Associate Members is a necessary process which nevertheless should be harmonized with the Member Societies' own strategies. Future Associate Members might include users, such as transportation companies (e.g., air lines, railroad companies etc.), energy companies and TV companies. As to the motivation it was proposed that it may, e.g., be worthwhile for an Associate Member to join the EMS network in order to obtain information more easily.

Other Societies and Associate Members are encouraged to present their structures, approaches, activities and views to their EMS peers.

Rasmus Benestad, Norway, presented a number of questions to EMS. It was noted that better and more visible information should be provided for those who want to participate in EMS activities. With respect to statements it was discussed whether a large body necessarily comes to a unified opinion. The experience of several national Societies show that the production process is arduous and time-consuming. It is important that statements are not anonymous. Some Societies are convinced that neutrality is only assured if no statements at all are published. However, having a data base of Frequently Asked Questions was considered favourable. Furthermore, recommended links, as well as reference to places where discussions are carried out and statements can be found are desirable.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

It was announced that henceforth Annual Reports of EMS will be produced.

## **12. Time and place of the next General Assembly**

The 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will take place in Utrecht, in September 2005 during the 5<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM Conference.

Werner Wehry closed the 6<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly at 17:40

## **Appendix A**

### **AGENDA**

6th EMS General Assembly  
26 September 2004, 14:00-17:00  
Nice, Acropolis Conference Center

#### Preliminary Agenda

1/ Welcome

2/ Acceptance of the Agenda

3/ Acceptance of Minutes of 5th General Assembly

4/ Activity reports by EMS Bureau and Secretariat

5/ Approval of the activities of the EMS Bureau (Clearance)

6/ Activity reports by EMS Committee Chairs

7/ Membership

- a) Modification of the Associate Membership Fee structure
- b) Welcome of New Members
- c) Welcome of Associate Members

8/ Finances

- a) Report of Treasurer
- b) Prospects for 2005 and beyond

9/ Composition of Council

10/ Membership within EMS Member Societies – delegates are invited to report about measures and strategies to sustain the Membership in their Societies.

11/ Miscellaneous

12/ Time and place of next General Assembly (Utrecht, September 2005)

## APPENDIX B

### Resolutions

- G31 Approval of Bureau Report 2003 – Clearance
- G32 Approval of Bureau Report 2002 – Clearance
- G33 Approval of Bureau Report 2001 – Clearance
- G34 Approval of Bureau Report 2000 – Clearance
- G35 Modified Associate Membership Fee structure
- G36 Welcoming of the Deutscher Wetterdienst as Associate Member
- G37 Welcoming of Royal Meteorological Institute, Belgium, as Associate Member
- G38 Approval of Treasurer Report
- G39 Appointment of auditor
- G40 New Councillor Rasmus Benestad (FM, Norway)
- G41 New Councillor Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)
- G42 New Councillor Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, Netherlands)

#### RESOLUTION G31

This General Assembly approves the Bureau report for the period September 2003-September 2004.

#### RESOLUTION G32

This General Assembly approves the Bureau report for the period September 2002-September 2003.

#### RESOLUTION G33

This General Assembly approves the Bureau report for the period September 2001-September 2002.

#### RESOLUTION G34

This General Assembly approves the Bureau report for the period September 2000-September 2001.

#### RESOLUTION G35

Amendment to EMS Associate Members Fees

This General Assembly decides that, beginning in September 2004, the EMS Associate Membership will be amended. Henceforth the fees are calculated according to the number of declared employees as follows:

< 10	employees	200 €	per annum
10-20	employees	400 €	per annum
21-30	employees	600 €	per annum
31-40	employees	800 €	per annum
> 40	employees	1000 €	per annum

#### RESOLUTION G36

This General Assembly welcomes the Deutscher Wetterdienst as new EMS Associate Member.

#### RESOLUTION G37

This General Assembly welcomes the Royal Meteorological Institute, Belgium, as a new EMS Associate Member.

#### RESOLUTION G38

This General Assembly approves the Financial Report 2003 of the Treasurer.

#### RESOLUTION G39

This General Assembly appoints Frank Lucas as the auditor for 2004.

#### RESOLUTION G40

This General Assembly decides to invite Rasmus Benestad (FM, Norway) as a new Councillor for a two-year term.

#### RESOLUTION G41

This General Assembly decides to invite Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia) as a new Councillor for a two-year term.

#### RESOLUTION G42

This General Assembly decides to invite Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands) as a new Councillor for a two-year term.