

**7th EMS General Assembly
De Bilt, Netherlands, 11 September 2005**

Minutes

approved by the 8th General Assembly, 3 September 2006, Ljubljana

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. All Resolutions are annexed as Appendix B.

B: The quorum of 10 Members present was met; in fact in the beginning 11 (with a gradual increase towards 14) representatives of Meteorological Societies and 4 observers and guests participated.

Present:

Entitled to vote

Rasmus Benestad (FM, Oslo), Peter Binder (SGM, Switzerland), Constanta Boroneant (SMR, Bucharest), David Burridge (EMS President, RMetS, Bracknell), Renato Carvalho (APMG, Lisbon [from 14:30]), Tanja Cegnar (EMS Meetings Committee, SMD, Ljubljana), Tomas Halenka (EMS Vice President and Treasurer from autumn 2005 on, EMS Education Committee, CeMS, Prague), Raino Heino (EMS Vice President, Societies from Finland, Helsinki), Seijo Kruizinga (NVBM, Netherlands), Branislava Lalić (SMD, Beograd), René Morin (EMS Vice President for the report period, EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Artemis Orphanou (CY.MET.A, Larnaca [from 15:45]), Asunción Pastor (Societies from Spain, Madrid), Fulvio Stel (Societies from Italy, Visco, UD [from 14:45]), Werner Wehry (EMS President for the report period, EMS Vice President and Immediate Past President from autumn 2005 on, EMS Awards Committee, DMG, Berlin)

Observers/Guests

David Axford (EMS Vice President and Treasurer for the report period, EMS Accrediation Committee, RMetS, Bracknell), Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Visco, UD [from 14:45]), Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland), Bob Riddaway (EMS Publications Committee, RMetS, Bracknell)

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

Beginning: 14:10 End: 17:35

1. Welcome

Owing to the fact that David Burridge was elected as the new EMS President in the Council Meeting that preceded this General Assembly he was entitled to chair the 7th General Assembly. He designated his successor and Immediate Past President, Werner Wehry as Chair of the Assembly. Werner Wehry chaired and formally opened the 7th EMS General Assembly at 14:10. He thanked KNMI for hosting the EMS General

Assembly, as well as the Council Meeting that took place immediately before the General Assembly, at their headquarters. The welcome address was followed by brief introductions of the participants.

The General Assembly furthermore thanked the outgoing EMS President, Werner Wehry who now is the Immediate Past President and one of the EMS Vice Presidents, for all his activities and energy he put into the work of EMS.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the 7th General Assembly was adopted by a vote of (11/0/0); it is annexed as Appendix A.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 6th General Assembly

The Minutes of the 6th General Assembly in Nice were accepted by a vote of (11/0/0).

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 designations *President*, *Treasurer* etc. are assigned with respect to the function during the preceding year for which the activities were reported.

The EMS President, Werner Wehry, reported about his work for the EMS Awards Committee. One further item of particular interest was the EMS Annual Meetings series where continuous effort needs to be made to maintain good contacts with the American Meteorological Societies, with existing conferences and, overall, with respect to the harmonization of conference dates. It was pointed out by the General Assembly that the prevention of overlap with other conferences is particularly important.

The EMS Past President, René Morin, reported about his contacts with the new Director of the Italian Weather Service – towards an Associate Membership of that Service. He was furthermore active in the work of the EMS Awards Committee and with respect to the activities of the EMS Media Committee.

The EMS Treasurer, David Axford, reported about his activities with respect to accreditation. As treasurer, he reported that the audit for 2004 will take place shortly after the Annual Meeting. It was pointed out the audit should be carried out earlier in the year, to be available at the General Assembly.

The EMS Vice President, Raino Heino, reported about his work and contacts, e.g., with the Nordic Societies and the ECAC Advisory Board.

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, numerous contacts with the Copernicus Organization as well as the local co-organizers at KNMI, the selection of conveners and session chairs and the work in steering bodies of part and partner conferences. Furthermore, he is chairing one session and gives a lecture at the 5th EMS Annual Meeting. Other scientific activities include the work for the Education and the Media Committee. With respect to the Annual Report of EMS, he reported that due to the work in preparation of the 5th Annual Meeting unfortunately there was not sufficient time to

produce the documents but he has developed a strategy to collect and edit the necessary documents.

The EMS President thanked the EMS Executive Secretary for his work.

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

Since the audit for 2004 was not done, a formal clearance for 2004 was postponed until the General Assembly in 2006. However, the reports were approved and Resolution G43 was voted (7/0/4).

6. Activity reports of the EMS Committee Chairs

Accreditation: The Chair, David Axford, reported the the scheme for Chartered Meteorologists which is now accepted Europe-wide, goes forward. Information has been distributed by RmetS and further details can be found on the RmetS web site.

Awards: The Chair, Werner Wehry, reported about the Award Committee's activities, explained the criteria for evaluating the candidates and briefly described the distribution of the available Award money among numerous conferences. To the experience of the Awards Committee, seeking appreciation and seeking additional travel funding are the main motivations of the applicants. The Awards Committee Chair was asked to draft a document in which the principles for the selection of conferences at which EMS Awards should be given as well as the criteria for the selection of candidates should be described.

Education: The Chair, Tomas Halenka, reported about the activities of the Education Committee and the preparations for an education session at the 5th Annual Meeting in Utrecht. Werner Wehry gave additional information on the rapid changes in the University systems of European countries and suggested that an update of the ECTOM data base (European Catalog of Training Opportunities) might be needed to postpone until a more stable state has been reached. He also reported about the preparations for the EWOC Conference in Boulder, Colorado in 2006. Although it is rather costly to bring participants to Boulder, at least some support in the form of Travel Awards is given. Maybe one representative of the Education Committee can be present in Boulder, too.

Media: The Chair, Tanja Cegnar, reported about her activities with respect to improved networking. To further this endeavour she asked for more Committee Member nominations by the Meteorological Societies. In the time before the 5th Annual Meeting she had produced a CD which contains the lectures from the Media Session at the 4th Annual Meeting in Nice. It is intended to be distributed at the booth of EMS at the Annual Meeting.

Meetings: On behalf of the Meetings Committee, the EMS Executive Secretary reported about the wide array of activities and responsibilities. Since 2004, the EMS Annual Meetings have become substantially larger in scope. From the preliminary figures for the Annual Meeting 2005, an increase of about 15% in the number of presentations and participants over those of the Annual Meeting 2004 will be possible. He furthermore pointed out the ongoing synergy which comes through the co-operation with the COST Programme of the European Science Foundation: As in the previous year, a sizeable number of scientist from COST Actions had submitted papers to the 5th 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. 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 6th EMS Annual Meeting is under preparation. It will take place 3-7 September 2006 in Ljubljana (Slovenia). Part and partner in 2005 will be the 6th ECAC Conference. As in 2004 and 2005, EMS co-operates with Copernicus Society on organizational matters. Furthermore, contacts have been established with the Spanish Meteorological Societies and the Spanish Weather Service with the aim of having the 7th EMS Annual Meeting in Spain.

Publications: The Chair, Bob Riddaway, reported about the useful discussion at the EMS Council Meeting that took place immediately before the General Assembly. It was concluded that the EMS Newsletter should continue in a web and a print version. He asked all Societies to supply news and other noteworthy details to him. As to an EMS journal he reported about the necessity to identify a niche and a need for such a publication. Starting a journal is a risky and expensive undertaking, although it should be underlined that the standing as well as the visibility of the EMS would benefit; furthermore a journal might prove to be source of revenue, eventually. The EMS Executive Secretary added that he had prepared a survey of all publication made by the EMS Members. It is available on the EMS web site.

7. Membership

7.1 Welcome of new EMS Members

In the past year, two new Member Societies joined EMS: The Cyprus Meteorological Association and Geofyysikkojen Liitto (Finnish Association of Geophysics). The EMS passed Resolution C44 with respect to CY.MET.A (14/0/0) and Resolution C45 with respect to Geofyysikkojen Liitto (14/0/0). With respect to the Societies from Finland it was pointed out that, comparable to Italy and Spain, the Societies are asked to designate for the EMS General Assembly (and, if applicable, the EMS Council) one representative who is authorized to vote on behalf of them.

7.2 Welcome of Associate Members

Since the last General Assembly, the companies MODEM (France), Campbell Scientific (United Kingdom) and Dégreane Horizon (France) have become Associate Members. Resolution G46 was voted (14/0/0), Resolution G47 was voted (14/0/0) and Resolution G48 was voted (14/0/0) and thus all three new Associate Members have been formally welcomed. They will have observer status at the General Assembly and the EMS Council (in the latter as members of the group of manufacturers). The application process for the Romanian National Meteorological Institute is ongoing.

8. Finances

a) Report of the Treasurer

The EMS Treasurer, David Axford, presented his financial report. He mentioned that the 2004 audit which is necessary to acknowledge EMS' activity as a public charity and a to obtain a recommendation for sustained tax-favoured status was not available at the time of the General Assembly. This audit was foreseen to be carried out at the EMS Secretariat in October 2005. The Treasurer's report was approved and Resolution G49

was voted (14/0/0). Furthermore it was necessary to appoint an auditor for the next year. Resolution G50 was voted (14/0/0), confirming the current auditor.

b) Prospects for 2006 and beyond

The Treasurer presented his financial planning. A comprehensive discussion focused on these matters:

- Necessity to formulate Member and Associate requirements.
- Necessity to formulate financial plans and strategies in writing, i.e., beyond the presentation of budget tables.
- Identification and forecast of all sorts of funding, e.g., donations and the motivations of donors, sponsorship form producing reports.
- Identification and identification strategies for further Members and Associate Members, including the establishment of contacts to insurance and reinsurance companies as well as news media.
- Research on the financial aspects of launching scientific publications.

9. Composition of Council

Two Councillors who had served successfully and with great enthusiasm during their two-year term are leaving Council by the end of the year: Rosa Maria Rodriguez (Spanish Societies) and Nikos Prezerakos (HMH). Two new Councillors are invited for two year terms. Furthermore, the representative of RMetS (a Society which has permanent Councillor status), David Axford, resigned from his Councillor post and as his successor the newly elected EMS President, David Burridge was proposed by RMetS. The 7th General Assembly voted as follows:

Resolution G51 – Welcome to David Burridge – (14/0/0).

Resolution G52 – Renato Carvalho – (14/0/0).

Resolution G53 – Tomas Halenka – (14/0/0).

10. Membership within EMS Member Societies

The delegate of the Cyprus Meteorological Association, Artemis Orphanou, distributed a document with a portrait of CY.MET.A. and its activities.

11. Miscellaneous

The delegate of the Meteorological Societies from Italy, Fulvio Stel, presented a "call for portraits". The Bulletin of the Meteorological Society from Friul (UMFVG), *Meteorologica*, presents information about other meteorological and related Societies to their readers. *Meteorologica* appears in Italian; its editorial staff will provide translations of the portraits, which, most probably, will be supplied by the authors in English. Fulvio Stel also remarked that UMFVG is offering to send their descriptions to anyone interested.

A second item, briefly touched, was a request to take into consideration if the EMS General Assembly could in the future be held not on a Sunday but on the evening of a weekday.

12. Time and place of the next General Assembly

The 8th General Assembly will take place in Ljubljana, in September 2006 in conjunction with the 6th EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC Conference.

Werner Wehry closed the 7th EMS General Assembly at 17:35