

12th EMS General Assembly
12 September 2010
Zürich, Switzerland

Minutes approved by the
13th EMS General Assembly

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

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)
Christophe Billard (SMF, France)
Constanta Boroneant (RMS, Romania)
Arunas Bukantis (University of Vilnius)
Tanja Cegnar (SMD Slovenia)
Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF France)
Zoltán Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)
Markus Furger (SGM, Switzerland)
Tomáš Halenka (CmeS, Czech Republic)
Gordana Jovanović (MDS, Serbia)
Simon Krichak (IMS, Israel)
Lukasz Łegutko (IMGW, Poland)
Olivija Morell (Meteo Mak, FYROM)
Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)
Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)
Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)
Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland)
Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland)
Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)
Kornelia Spoler Canic (HMD, Croatia)
Pavel Stastny (SMS, Slovakia)
Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany)
Jeremy Usher (Weatherbug)
Marc Vandiepenbeek (SRBA, Belgium)
Joanna Wibiq (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)
Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of session

The President welcomed all participants to the General Assembly. The presence of **19 nominated representatives of EMS Member Societies** was verified; the quorum is 10. The presiding officer declared that the quorum is fulfilled. Votes are given as (acceptance : rejection : abstention).

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 11th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 11th session of the EMS General Assembly (Annex IIX) were accepted unanimously, with the addition of one participant name originally missing in the list.

4. Report of the President and the Bureau

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last General Assembly and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council (Annex II).

The EMS Annual Report 2009, detailing activities of the EMS in the previous year, had been published in August, and is presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council. Printed copies of the Annual Report had been distributed to all Member Societies and Associate Members in August; it is also publicly available from the emetsoc.org website.

The main activity constitutes communication with the Executive Secretary, the chair of the PADG and the Treasurer on the day-to-day business of the EMS.

The President emphasized the activities with respect to the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS), where he is steering the committee that is responsible for the development of the new website. The second Global Meeting of the IFMS (IFMS-GM2) will be held in China in 2011 on invitation of the Chinese Meteorological Society (CMS). In that context a strong delegation of the CMS will participate in the EMS&ECAC in Zürich.

The success of the Europhotometeo contest EPM'09 was highlighted; the contest will be repeated with a two-year cycle and the Spanish Member Society AME has kindly volunteered to organise the contest again.

The imminent EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC was well received, about 600 participants were expected. The preparation benefited from excellent support from the local organisers; participation of young scientists was supported by the SGM through provision of additional funds for Young Scientist Travel Awards.

The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2009-September 2010 (Resolution G97: 19:0:0: Entlastung).

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 2010, and support for EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

The ems-message No.8 and 9 have been published. Input from Member Societies has increased, but the full width of activities across Europe is not reflected.

As result of discussions at the 11th General Assembly in 2009, a brochure on the activities of the EMS has been produced by the PADG, and is accessible from the emetsoc.org site.

Following a decision of the EMS Council in spring, a booth at the exhibition at the EMS&ECAC was arranged for display of material from the EMS Member Societies. Around five societies have prepared material for the display.

The EMS President informed the General Assembly that he receives reports from the Executive Secretary on a regular basis.

6. Report of the Treasurer

The Financial report, as given by the Treasurer to the EMS General Assembly, is provided in Annex IV.

Financial Accounts 2009

The financial situation of the EMS is healthy. The balance as at 31 December 2009 has increased by 7,936.80€ as compared to 31 December 2008, mainly due to a surplus from the EMS Annual Meeting 2009.

The revenue and expenses statement has been compiled by the tax advisor, B. Hoffmann, Berlin. The Audit of the accounts had been carried out by the Office of C. Kucklick in Berlin, and no shortcomings were noted. The audit report and attestation are provided with Annex IV.

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2010

The forecast of the financial accounts for 2010 shows that income and expenditure will stay well within limits set out by the Budget; a negative balance of 9 000 Euro is expected.

The contributions to the EMS income were analysed, and it was noted that the Membership fees of Associate Members constitute a considerable part of the EMS funding. It was agreed that visibility of Associate Members should be improved via the EMS Internet site.

Despite the current healthy state of the EMS accounts, the situation must be monitored, as the income from the Annual Meetings is subject to considerable variability.

The funds available will be employed for new projects of the project teams, among these a workshop of the Media Team for climatologists.

Budget 2011

The proposal for the EMS Budget 2011, as agreed by the EMS Council, was provided with the Report of the Treasurer (Annex IV).

The General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2009 of the Treasurer (Resolution G98:19:0:0: Entlastung).

6.2 Appointment Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly to re-commission Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany, <http://www.ckucklick-wp.de/>, as auditor for the accounts 2010.

The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2010. (Resolution G99:19:0:0).

7. Reports Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) and Project Teams

The chair of the PADG provided an update on the actions from the meeting of the PADG and associated Council decisions in March 2010 (Annex V). It was noted that the majority of actions had been completed.

The Project Team Communication was disbanded and an Editorial Board established, with the following membership: B. Riddaway, C.Pastre, F. Neuwirth, M. Junge. Terms of Reference have been agreed by the Council (Annex V).

8. Revision of the constitution of the EMS

The proposal to amend the constitution of the EMS had been distributed to EMS Members with the invitation to the General Assembly (Annex VI).

The General Assembly voted in favour of the changes to the constitution of the EMS as proposed (Resolution G100: 19:0:0).

9. Activities of Member Societies and Associates

SMF, France:

- SMF publishes the journal La Météorologie.
- It informs its members regularly through letters.
- The website, besides updating the members and everybody interested on its activities, also provides a forum for discussion on topical issues.
- The 7th International Forum Météo will take place 21-24 October 2010, and includes training courses for school teachers and a scientific conference on floods.
- Regional meetings on education of school children are organized; this project has been selected for the EMS Outreach&Communication Award 2010.

RMetS, UK:

- The RMetS is launching the WeatherClub, a club for everybody interested in meteorology, in September with a promotion tour throughout the UK.
The WeatherClub issues a monthly magazine, and the associated website hosts a forum for members and the possibility to upload photos to the gallery; 5000 copies are produced in the first year; the aim is to get to 15 000 members within 3 years.

AME, Spain:

- The AME holds scientific meetings every two years.
- For 2011 AME collaborated with DMG in the production of the European Meteorological Calendar 2011, and a Spanish version is now available for the first time.
- The AME website was relaunched at the end of September, and now includes an open portal for upload of photos related to meteorological phenomena.

IMS, Israel:

- IMS has about 100 members; 10% did not renew their membership in 2010.
- Participation of members in the EMS Annual Meetings has increased in recent years.
- At the IMS Annual Meeting the EMS Brochure on the EMS and its activities was presented, and solicited many additional questions; members expressed satisfaction to be part of the European meteorological community.

- Diverse discussions are currently taking place in connection with WMO directive 258 on education of meteorologists: the directive is now relevant for new appointments at services, but university curricula do not necessarily meet the requirements of these recommendations.
- One Young Scientist Award was given for the attendance of the EMS&ECAC.

SMR, Romania:

- The Romanian Meteorological Society co-organizes the Annual Scientific Meeting together with the National Meteorological Administration (NMA); young scientist awards are announced for this meeting, two funded by SMR, two by NMA.
- The Europhotometeo contest was very much welcome by SMR members, and a national photo competition was thus instigated, with the best 12 pictures being selected for the calendar.
- Twice a year, informal meetings are organized for the SMR members; the topics of recent meetings dealt with climate change.
- The society involves retired scientists in its activities by inviting them to informal meetings annually.
- A publication at the occasion of the 125-year anniversary of the Romanian Meteorological Service was issued and is available from <https://sites.google.com/site/societateameteorologicaromana/diverse>.

SRBA, Belgium:

- SRBA consists of three sections, one of them meteorology, and publishes 6 issues of the SRBA magazine per year.
- Members are mostly non-professionals, but the activities are organised by professionals in the field.
- SRBA organises 6 conferences per year, 2 related to each section; additionally 5 seminars are organised, which discuss scientific questions at a higher level than the conferences.
- SRBA organised a competition on meteorology at schools, with the first prize an automatic weather station.

SMS, Slovakia:

- A young scientist award in meteorology has been announced
- The society co-organises three conferences on
 - Meteorology and climate
 - Hydrology
 - Water management
- The society is organizing an annual meeting.

HMD, Croatia:

- The new president of the HMD is Amela Jericevic, Head of Air Quality Research and Application Department at Meteorological and Hydrological Service in Croatia (for her profile see the ems-message no. 7, December 2009).
- A new issue of the Croatian Meteorological Journal has been published.
- Excursions are organized twice each year; the most recent one was in corporation with the Slovenian meteorological society.
- The society web site has been restructured.
- In order to make meteorology more popular and better understood in society a science festival is organized, and educational projects are supported.
- In November 2010 the society organizes its first scientific conference with the theme "Challenges in meteorology"; it will include workshops, and also a photo contest is announced in connection with the conference.

DMG, Germany:

- The German meteorological society has a broad programme on education.
- DMG runs an accreditation scheme for experts in meteorological applications such as environmental meteorology, questions of weather and climate and energy. This accreditation guarantees the quality of experts and expert's reports in terms of training, experience, personal competence and quality management. The DMG has developed official rules for the procedure of accreditation.

MeteoMak, FYRO Macedonia:

- The society is small, and has very limited funds, thus activities are mostly restricted to those that do not involve financial commitments.
- Lectures in schools by society members are organized.
- Children happenings at the weather service were organized, 8-10 year olds painted the walls of the institute.
- A member journal is issued.
- MeteoMak is a very active co-organiser of the biennial BALWOIS conference on water management in Balkan countries, which has become more international beyond the Balkan countries recently (2010: 760 submitted abstracts, 400 participants).

MMT, Hungary:

- The Hungarian meteorological society has 400 members, and is organized in 6 divisions.
- It has 40 meetings a year, and organises a biannual meeting on education in meteorology.
- The society co-edits a journal together with the national weather service OMSZ.

MDS, Serbia:

- The Serbian meteorological society celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- The society organizes lectures of meteorologists that work and live abroad.
- All publications are issued electronically.
- In collaboration with the Serbian NMHS and private service providers initiatives are taken to influence the planned law on provision of meteorological services in Serbia.

In summary the EMS President concluded that this meeting provided a good exchange on activities as well as on problems and discussions of the EMS Members, and he encouraged all to regularly provide such information to the editorial board for publication on the EMS website and in the electronic newsletter.

10. Code of Ethics

Following the proposal for a code of ethics by the Media Team at the 22nd Council Session, the Project Team on Professional Practices initiated an inquiry with EMS Members on the existence of codes of ethics or related guidelines. Three responses were received so far, and these have been analysed as to similarities and general issues; the report is attached (Annex VII).

The code of ethics, and discussions that followed, will be presented at the Media Session of the EMS Meeting in the following week.

The aim is to:

- Derive common features of existing codes and guidelines (that remain subject to a permanent critical approach).
- Derive from these common features an “EMS code” that Members could adopt or adapt as their code
- Make the results available on the internet.

Further input from EMS Members is important in this process.

11. Membership

New Associate Members

The Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW), Warszawa, Poland, applied for EMS Associate Membership (Annex VIII). The Council has welcomed this application. Lukasz Łęgutko, Vice-Director of the IMGW, attended the General Assembly and conveyed a letter by Mieczysław S. Ostojski, Director General of IMGW, in which the latter expressed his expectation for a fruitful collaboration with benefits for the whole meteorological community, and IMGW's commitment to contribute to its further developments and success.

The General Assembly welcomed the IMGW as EMS Associate Member and expressed its delight in extending the network of the meteorological community in Europe (Resolution G101: 19:0:0).

The General Assembly was also informed that the Italian Member Society SIMA will be dissolved, and the Associate Member Degreane Horizon has cancelled its Membership.

12. Council Composition

After this session of the General Assembly the term of three councillors will end; Rolf Philipona as representative of the SGM, Switzerland, who also served as Vice-President, Michael Petrakis, as representative of HMS, Greece, and Zoltán Dunkel as representative of MMT, Hungary. On behalf of the EMS, the President expressed his great gratitude for their committed work and valuable contributions to the EMS Council and also to the PADG.

Election of Council Members

The Twelfth EMS General Assembly voted on the following:

This General Assembly decides to invite Fritz Neuwirth to represent ÖGM, Austria, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2011 (one year). (Resolution G102: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Fernando Aguado to represent AME, Spain, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2011 (one year). (Resolution G103: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Constanta Boronenant to represent RMS, Romania, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2012 (two years). (Resolution G104: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Olivija Morell to represent the MeteoMak, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2012 (two years). (Resolution G105: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Dagmar Kotlarikova is to represent the SMS, Slovak Republic, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2012 (two years). (Resolution G106: 19:0:0)

13. AOB

No issues were presented under this agenda item.

14. Time and Place of next General Assembly

The 13th EMS General Assembly will be held in Berlin, Germany, on 11 September 2011.

Martina Junge
15 November 2010

ANNEX A: Resolutions 12th EMS General Assembly

Resolutions:

- G97 Approval of Bureau Report September 2009 – September 2010
- G98 Formal approval of Treasurer Report
- G99 Appointment of an auditor
- G100 Revision of the constitution
- G101 Welcome of the Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Poland, as Associate Member
- G102 New Councillor Fritz Neuwirth (OeGM, Austria)
- G103 New Councillor Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)
- G104 New Councillor Constanta Boronenant (RMS, Romania)
- G105 New Councillor Olivija Morell (MeteoMak, FYROM)
- G106 New Councillor Dagmar Kotlarikova (SMS, Slovak Republic)

RESOLUTION G97

This General Assembly approved the Bureau report for the period September 2009-September 2010. (Entlastung)

RESOLUTION G98

This General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2009 of the Treasurer. (Entlastung)

RESOLUTION G99

This General Assembly appointed C. Kucklick as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2010.

RESOLUTION G100

This General Assembly votes for the following changes to the EMS constitution:

- Preamble, second paragraph:
“establish” is replaced by “have established”
- 3.5., 2. Sentence:
Such bodies include non-European Meteorological Societies, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, research and education institutes and departments and companies with interests in meteorology, related sciences and their applications, and Europe-wide bodies with similar interests.
- 5.2.2
The Council shall consist of representatives appointed by the governing bodies of the National Meteorological Societies of three permanent Members (France, Germany and the United Kingdom), plus six representatives of other Members elected by the annual General Assembly who shall each normally serve for a period of two years. The Council shall include one additional member in case the elected President is not already a representative (see 5.3.2).
- 5.3. Officers
 - 5.3.1 Bureau
The Bureau consists of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer.
 - 5.3.2 President
The Council shall appoint as President an individual who is a member of one of the Member Societies. The appointed President will automatically become a member of the Council if that person is not already a representative.
The appointment shall normally be for a term of three years and ends with the election of a new president. Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election.
 - 5.3.3 Vice-President
The Council shall elect a Vice-President from amongst its members. The appointment of the Vice-President shall normally be for a term of three years and ends

with the election of a new Vice-President. If the elected Vice-President is not a representative of one of the three permanent Members, the Council membership of the Vice-President shall be extended to cover the full period of office.

5.3.4 The President acts as representative of the Society.

5.3.5 If the President resigns or is unable to carry out the presidential functions through to the end of the period of office the Vice-President shall have the same powers and duties as the President till the election of a new President. In those circumstances the election of a new President shall take place as soon as possible.

5.3.6 Treasurer

The Council shall elect a Treasurer from amongst its members. The appointment of the Treasurer shall normally be for a term of three years and ends with the election of a new Treasurer. If the elected Treasurer is not a representative of one of the three permanent Members, the Council membership of the Treasurer shall be extended to cover the full period of office.

- Start-up and transition arrangements are deleted.

RESOLUTION G101

This General Assembly welcomes the *Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW), Warszawa, Poland*, as a new EMS Associate Member.

RESOLUTION G102

This General Assembly decides to invite Fritz Neuwirth to represent ÖGM, Austria, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2011 (one year).

RESOLUTION G103

This General Assembly decides to invite Fernando Aguado to represent AME, Spain, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2011 (one year).

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This General Assembly decides to invite Constanta Boronenant to represent RMS, Romania, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2010 – autumn 2012 (two years).

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