

**16th EMS General Assembly**

5 October 2014

Prague, Czech Republic

Minutes

25 November 2014

**Participants:** (voting representatives underlined)

Marina Baldi (AGI, Italy)- voting together with UMFVG, Italy

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS, Bulgaria) - voting on behalf of BMS and AMC

Zita Bihari (MMT, Hungary) – from 15:30

Svante Bodin (SMS, Sweden)

Horst Böttger (Chair Committee on Meetings until 05 October 2014, President 2014-2017)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (Météo et Climat, France)

Renato R. Colucci (UMFVG, Italy) – voting together with AGI, Italy

Bill Gail (AMS Presidet)

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Tomáš Halenka (CMeS, Czech Republic)

Paul Halton (IMS, Ireland)

Sylvain Joffre (GS and GFL, Finland)

Dominique Marbouty (EMS President 2011-2014)

Panagiotis Nastos (HMS, Greece)

Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)

Luis Pessanha (APMG, Portugal)

Jan Pretel (CHMI, Czech Republic)

Marc Prohom (meteo.cat, Spain)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Sabina Stefan (SMR, Romania)

Paulina Valtchanova (AMC, Bulgaria) – voting together with BMS, Bulgaria

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)

Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

25 participants

## 1. Opening of session

Dominique Marbouty welcomed all participants to the 16th General Assembly. He informed the Assembly that the Council at its 31<sup>st</sup> Session on the morning of the same day has elected Horst Böttger to serve as EMS President for the term 2014 to 2017 and handed over to Horst Böttger.

Horst Böttger indicated that he was honoured to be given the opportunity to steer the EMS during the next three years. He then delegated the task of chairing the 16th General Assembly to Dominique Marbouty, who had been in charge of preparing this Assembly together with the Bureau.

The presence of **16 nominated representatives of EMS Member Societies (17 from 15:30, agenda item 6)** 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.

### 3. Minutes of the 15th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 15th session of the EMS General Assembly were distributed in October 2013 to all participants. Revisions and corrections that were received within four weeks were included in the final minutes. The minutes are held adopted.

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

Dominique Marbouty reported on his activities as EMS President since the last General Assembly and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council. His main activity constitutes communication with the Executive Secretary, the Chair of the Committee on Meetings and the Treasurer on the day-to-day business of the EMS. During the last year he participated, together with Marshall Shepherd, president of the AMS, in a joint plenary session organised during the EUMETSAT/AMS Satellite Meteorology Conference in Vienna in September 2013. He also chaired the scientific symposium organised annually by the French meteorological society, Météo-et-Climat, as part of the International Weather and Climate forum in April 2014.

The EMS Bureau conducts quarterly reviews of actions and activities. The main issues the EMS Bureau dealt with were preparing the proposal to change the constitution and revise the rules of procedure for the General Assembly (agenda item 7), agreeing the organisation of the exhibition of EPM'14 winning photos, and planning the sessions of the EMS Council and the General Assembly. The Bureau also reviewed the initiative to invite Member Societies to address research and education institutes in their countries as potential new Associate Members; it was acknowledged that such an initiative would often not be in the interest of the national society.

The EMS Annual Report 2013, detailing activities of the EMS in the previous year, was published in September 2014 and was presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council. The Council at its 30th Session in spring 2014 had decided that printed copies of the Annual Report will not be produced anymore, the distribution and publication will only be online through the website. The Annual Report was also distributed to all Member Societies and Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly.

The President also informed the General Assembly about relevant items and decisions of the preceding 31st Council Session on 5 October 2014:

- Jean-Pierre Chalon (Météo-et-Climat, France) was re-elected as the EMS Treasurer for three years.
- Membership of EMS committees and project teams were discussed (agenda item 8).
- A fourth photo competition Europhotometeo'16 will be announced in autumn 2015.
- A revision and extension of the EMS Awards programme was agreed: a technology award and an outstanding contributions award will be announced; the detailed regulations will be agreed by Council at its spring meeting. In addition the Tromp foundation has offered to sponsor an award in the area of biometeorology.
- The ECTOM project will continue for a further 6 months and the Council will make a final review at its 32nd Session in spring 2015.

**GA16.01 Approval of Bureau and Council Report September 2013 – October 2014 (Entlastung):  
The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau and Council for the period September 2013 – October 2014. (votes 16:0:0)**

### 5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the secretariat since the last General Assembly which included contributions to the management of the Europhotometeo'14, preparations for the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAC 2014, management of award applications and evaluation processes for all EMS Awards, membership administration and maintenance of the EMS website.

Four ems-messages have been published since the last General Assembly. The call at the 15th General Assembly for proposals of new members of the Editorial Board resulted in Hvroje Bobinac, Croatian Meteorological Society, joining the board. The EMS is also active in the social media.

The Executive Secretary provided information about the status of the application to have the journal *Advances in Science and Research (ASR)* listed in the proceedings citation index CPCI.

## 6. Finance

### 6.1. Report of the Treasurer

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly in paper *GA16\_06-1\_Report-Treasurer*, including the audit report on the financial accounts 2013.

#### **Financial Accounts 2013**

The balance as at 31 December 2013 was 143 281.46€ and has increased by 59 006.60€ as compared to 31 December 2012. The revenue and expenses statement of the financial accounts 2013 has been compiled by the office of the tax advisor B. Hoffmann .

#### **Audit of the revenue and expenses 2013**

The financial accounts 2013 have been audited by the auditor C. Kucklick, Berlin. The audit report certifies that the revenue and expenses statement complies with the legal requirements as well as additional rules fixed in the constitution of the society. Payments made by the society are supported by invoices or other vouchers, related to the association's purpose.

#### **Accounts and Forecast 2014**

A corrected forecast for the accounts 2014 was presented (Annex II).

#### **Budget 2015**

A proposal for the EMS Budget 2015 had been provided for the 31st EMS Council Session (5 October 2014). The Treasurer informed the General Assembly that due to the relevance of the outcome from the Annual Meeting for the financial situation, the Bureau was tasked with preparing a new proposal for the spring 2015 Council Session, taking into account the outcome of the EMS & ECAC 2014.

**GA16.02 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung): The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer. (votes: 17:0:0).**

### 6.2. Appointment of the Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly that Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany, should be commissioned as auditor for the accounts 2014. Mr. Kucklick intends to merge his audit firm with the partnership Dr. Broll · Schmitt · Kaufmann & Partner BSKP. Should this merger take place before the end of the audit, the audit will be carried out by Dr. Broll Dr. Seid GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft.

**GA16.03 Auditor appointment: The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2014. Mr. Kucklick intends to merge his audit firm with the partnership Dr. Broll · Schmitt · Kaufmann & Partner BSKP. Should this merger take place before the end of the audit, the audit will be carried out by Dr. Broll Dr. Seid GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft. (votes:17:0:0).**

## 7. Change of The EMS Constitution

### 7.1. Change of constitution

The proposal to amend the constitution of the EMS had been distributed to EMS Members with the invitation to the General Assembly on 01 July 2014. The acceptance requires a two-third majority of the EMS Members (eligible to vote) present.

The Council proposes to extend the length of term of the rotating representative Members on the Council from two to three years, the objective being to allow for the learning period and more fruitful contribution to the Council work. Transition procedures for the period until 2017 have also been proposed (Annex III).

**GA16.04 Amendment of the constitution:** The General Assembly accepted amendments of the EMS Constitution in paragraph 5.2.2 and transition arrangements for the period 2014 to 2017. Annex III forms part of this decision. (votes: 17:0:0).

## 7.2. Change of Rules of Procedure

The proposal to revise Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly had been distributed to EMS Members with the invitation to the General Assembly on 01 July 2014.

**GA16.05 Revision Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly:** The General Assembly decided to change Rule 4 of Procedure as follows:

The last sentence of Rule 4 “Member Societies, whose subscription is more than twelve months overdue, revert automatically to observer status until back subscriptions are paid.”

is replaced by the following paragraph:

“Non-payment of annual subscriptions of Members or Associate Members in full by 1 September (or the date of the General Assembly, whichever is earlier) of the year following the year when payment is due, will result in the EMS Membership being considered “dormant”. Dormant Members will not be listed on the website as (Associate) Member, and they are not eligible for any Membership benefits. However, should all missed payments be made the Membership can be reinstated without going through a new application process.”

In Rule 5 the phrase “Apart from representatives of Member Societies which are too much behind in payment of their subscription (see Rule 4).” is deleted. (votes: 17:0:0)

## 8. Council Composition

After this session of the General Assembly the term of three rotating Members on the EMS Council will end: **Amir Givati** as representative of IMS, Israel, **Paul Halton** as representative of IMS, Ireland, and **Jonna Wibig** as representative of PTG – Meteorological Section, Poland.

On behalf of the EMS, the President Dominique Marbouty expressed great gratitude for their commitment to the EMS and the important contributions they have made to the work of the EMS Council during the last two years.

### **Election of Council Members**

The Council proposed to the General Assembly two new Members to be elected for three years according to the new regulation in the Constitution and to extend the term of one Member according to the agreed transition agreement.

**GA16.06 The General Assembly extended the term of the PTG-Meteorological Section, represented by Joanna Wibig, by one year until autumn 2015, and elected the Bulgarian Meteorological Society (BMS), represented by Ekaterina Batchvarova and the Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia (UMFVG), represented by Renato R. Colucci as Members of the EMS Council for the term autumn 2014 – autumn 2017. (votes:17:0:0).**

## 9. Membership of Project Teams, Committees and Boards

Dominique Marbouty informed the General Assembly about a proposal to make the procedures for the nomination of candidates for EMS committees, project teams and boards more transparent, which was discussed by the EMS Council on 5 October 2014.

In order to enable more involvement of individual members of EMS Member organisations while at the same time ensuring these teams remain efficient in their work, the following was agreed:

- Member Societies and Associates (hereafter referred to as EMS Members) should be informed by the EMS Executive Secretary when new members are sought for specific committees, project teams and boards; this should be done as early as possible before the Council's decision on membership.
- The bodies should aim at representing the diverse interests of EMS Members. The working groups, however, do not operate on representation of EMS Members but on personal capacity.
- Members of the EMS bodies need to be members of one of the EMS Member Societies or a member of staff of an Associate Member.
- EMS Members can suggest new candidates and should seek their agreement to actively contribute to the group before the suggestion is submitted.
- EMS Members can make a proposal at any time.
- Suggestions from EMS Members should be submitted to the EMS Executive Secretary.
- The chair of a committee, board or team can independently take the initiative to approach individuals and seek their agreement to actively contribute to the group.
- The committee, board or team selects among the proposed or identified individual(s) and submits the selection to Council for final acceptance.
- Everybody should be aware that not all proposals may be accepted; the working groups need to stay at a size and with an expertise that allows effective working conditions. Reasons for non-selection of a proposal do not have to be given.

## 10. EMS Membership

The Executive Secretary reported that two Associate Members (Earth Network and Campbell Scientific) had cancelled their EMS Associate Membership from 2014.

The Council had accepted two applications for EMS Associate Membership at its 30th session in March 2014: Innovative Solutions for Instrumentation and Science - [IS]<sup>2</sup> and the Servei Meteorològic de Catalunya (Meteorological Service of Catalonia).

The 31<sup>st</sup> Council Session held on 5 October 2014 accepted the application of the newly founded *Meteorological Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina* for EMS Membership. The society has 18 members and a focus of its activities is the education of young people as there is no faculty of geosciences in the country.

**GA16.07 EMS Membership: The General Assembly welcomed the Meteorological Society of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a new a EMS Member Society, and the Innovative Solutions for Instrumentation and Science - [IS]<sup>2</sup> and Servei Meteorològic de Catalunya (Meteorological Service of Catalonia) as new EMS Associate Members. (votes: 17:0:0).**

The General Assembly was also informed that the status of the *Asociación Española de Biometeología* (AEB, Spanish Association of Biometeorologists) is considered as "dormant".

## 11. Activities of Member Societies and Associate Members

The Member Societies and Associate Members present reported on their activities in recent months as well as planned actions. In summary the EMS President concluded that this meeting provided a good exchange, not only on the various activities but also on problems and discussions of the EMS Members. He encouraged all to regularly provide such information to the Editorial Board for publication on the EMS website.

## 12. AOB

No issues were discussed under this item.

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

The 17th EMS General Assembly will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Sunday, 6 September 2015.

The meeting opened at 15:00 and closed at 17:00.

Martina Junge  
25 November 2014

**ANNEX I: Decision by the 16th EMS General Assembly****GA16.01 Approval of Bureau and Council Report September 2013 – September 2014**

**(Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau and Council for the period September 2013 – September 2014.

**GA16.02 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer.

**GA16.03 Auditor appointment:** The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2014. Mr. Kucklick intends to merge his audit firm with the partnership Dr. Broll • Schmitt • Kaufmann & Partner BSKP. Should this merger take place before the end of the audit, the audit will be carried out by Dr. Broll Dr. Seid GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft.

**GA16.04 Change of Constitution:** The General Assembly accepted amendments of the EMS Constitution in paragraph 5.2.2 and transition arrangements for the period 2014 to 2017. Annex III forms part of this decision.

**GA16.05 Change of Rules of Procedure:** Revision Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly: The General Assembly decided to change Rule 4 of Procedure as follows:

The last sentence of Rule 4 “Member Societies, whose subscription is more than twelve months overdue, revert automatically to observer status until back subscriptions are paid.” is replaced by the following paragraph:

“Non-payment of annual subscriptions of Members or Associate Members in full by 1 September (or the date of the General Assembly, whichever is earlier) of the year following the year when payment is due, will result in the EMS Membership being considered “dormant”. Dormant Members will not be listed on the website as (Associate) Member, and they are not eligible for any Membership benefits. However, should all missed payments be made the Membership can be reinstated without going through a new application process.”

In Rule 5 the phrase “Apart from representatives of Member Societies which are too much behind in payment of their subscription (see Rule 4).” is deleted.

**GA16.06 Council composition 2014 – 2015:** The General Assembly extended the term of the PTG-Meteorological Section, represented by Joanna Wibig, by one year until autumn 2015, and elected the Bulgarian Meteorological Society (BMS), represented by Ekaterina Batchvarova and the Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia (UMFVG), represented by Roberto R. Colucci as Members of the EMS Council for the term autumn 2014 – autumn 2017.

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## Annex II: Forecast for the Financial Accounts 2014

Carried forward from 2013	143 281 €	143 281 €	143 281.46 €
	Budget agreed at C30	Forecast	Accounts on 21 Aug 2014
<b>Income 2014</b>			
Income from Members	19 000 €	19 000 €	16 313.50 €
Income from Associate Members	38 200 €	38 200 €	35 800.00 €
Annual Meeting	40 000 €	20 000 €	0.00 €
VAT Annual Meeting 2014	2 800 €	1 400 €	0.00 €
Interest			122.03 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 000 €</b>	<b>78 600 €</b>	<b>52 235.53 €</b>
<b>Expenditure 2014</b>			
Salaries	74 100 €	74 100 €	47 291.05 €
Committees, Project Teams	1 500 €	1 500 €	0.00 €
Awards	10 700 €	10 700 €	2 455.08 €
Europhotometeo'14	3 000 €	2 900 €	*2 900.00 €
Workshops	650 €	650 €	0.00 €
Publications	1 500 €	1 500 €	90.80 €
Honoraries, Fees	4 500 €	4 500 €	4 102.63 €
Travelling	8 000 €	8 000 €	3 740.37 €
Support for Members' and topical meetings	150 €	150 €	0.00 €
Office costs*	2 500 €	2 500 €	1 704.69 €
Banking charges	300 €	300 €	14.70 €
VAT Annual Meeting 2013	0 €	0 €	0.00 €
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>106 900 €</b>	<b>106 800 €</b>	<b>61 959.32 €</b>
<b>Income – Expenditure 2014</b>	<b>-6 900 €</b>	<b>-28 200 €</b>	<b>-10 063.79 €</b>
<b>Account Balance anticipated for 31 Dec 2014/as of 21 Aug 2014</b>	<b>136 381 €</b>	<b>115 081 €</b>	<b>133 217.67 €</b>

\* includes prints of top ten entries for photo exhibition in Prague



## Annex III: Changes agreed in the EMS Constitution

### Constitution of the European Meteorological Society

with amendments of 30 September 2007  
with amendments of 12 September 2010

with amendments agreed by the 16<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly 2014 on 05 October 2014, Prague

#### Preamble

In the nations of Europe, Societies of professional meteorologists, weather and climate scientists, users of applied meteorology and dedicated weather amateurs have encouraged and enabled the advance of meteorology for many years.

On the eve of the 21st century, these Meteorological Societies have established a permanent organization for their cooperation, particularly to deal with those aspects of meteorology which can be solved only on a Europe-wide basis or are best approached on that scale. This organization is based on the following Constitution.

#### The constitution

##### 1 Name

The name of the Society shall be European Meteorological Society e.V., abbreviated as EMS.

##### 2 Seat

2.1 The seat of the Society shall be the seat of the Secretariat of the Society.

2.2 The seat of the Secretariat is at present in Berlin, Germany.

##### 3 Membership

3.1 The Society shall be an Association of European Societies, mostly at the national level, which shall be scientifically based Societies in the fields of meteorology and related sciences, and their applications. Europe is defined as the area of WMO Regional Association Six.

3.2 New Members shall be elected by vote of at least two-thirds of the Council of the Society. Any national Society fitting the description set down in subparagraph 3.1 shall be eligible as a candidate for election as a new Member.

3.3 Members may leave voluntarily at any time.

3.4 Membership may otherwise be terminated only by vote of at least two-thirds of the Members present at General Assembly of Members, called by the President, with at least four weeks notice.

3.5 In addition to Societies defined in 3.1 above, other bodies with an interest in the aims of EMS may be eligible for Associate Membership. 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.

## 4 Purpose

4.1 The objectives of the Society are to advance meteorology (and sciences related to it) at a European-wide level, and to assist the development of applications of these subjects for the public welfare and benefit of the peoples of Europe and elsewhere.

4.2 To these ends, the Society will concentrate its efforts into activities which can only be carried out at the European level, or which are carried out more effectively at that level than by a single member Society. Among other activities, the Society organizes scientific meetings and lecture series and supports scientific publications and research for the public welfare. The Council may establish groups which have special interests at the European level.

4.3. The Society pursues only activities directly intended to promote public welfare in the sense meant by taxation regulations. It is to be registered at the *Vereinsregister*.

4.4. The Society acts disinterestedly, in the sense that it does not pursue primarily its own economic gain.

4.5. The assets and income of the Society may be used only for purposes set out in this Constitution. No Member shall derive financial benefit from the assets or income of the Society. Any person or party incurring expenses on behalf of the Society, and for the purposes set out in this Constitution, shall not be reimbursed excessively.

## 5 Organization

### 5.1 General Assemblies

5.1.1 There shall be a General Assembly of Members, called by the President in written form at least once a year in the State of a Member, chaired by one of the Officers (see 5.3), normally the President. At a General Assembly, financial matters and matters ruled by par. 5.5.1 and par.9 shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of Members present. The presiding Officer shall have a deciding vote and shall also decide which matters are financial. Other matters shall be decided by a simple majority. Minutes have to be prepared about the content of the meeting. The chairperson is to sign them.

5.1.2 At General Assemblies, ten Members shall constitute a quorum. Members may send any number of representatives to a General Assembly, but only one shall be designated by the Member to speak and vote on behalf of the Member in any particular discussion.

5.1.3 The General Assembly shall establish and adopt its own rules of procedure.

5.1.4 The General Assembly, having heard the report of the Council, including a financial report and a statement (written or otherwise) by the Society's Auditors, shall consider the accounts of the Society for the past year and elect two auditors for the forthcoming year

5.1.5 The General Assembly shall decide about other tasks according to the Constitution and the law.

5.1.6 All Associate Members shall be eligible to attend General Assemblies as observers.

### 5.2 Council

5.2.1 There shall be a Council. It shall meet at least once between any two sessions of the General Assembly and is chaired by one of the Officers, normally the President. The Council plans and directs the activities, and manages the properties and affairs, of the Society, in accordance with this constitution and decisions of the General Assembly of the Society.

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~~ **three** years. The Council shall include one additional member in case the elected President is not already a representative (see 5.3.1).

5.2.3 Voting at the Council shall be by two-thirds majority on financial matters and by a simple majority on other matters. The presiding Officer shall have a deciding vote. The presiding Officer shall also decide which matters are financial matters.

5.2.4 At Council, seven Members shall constitute a quorum.

5.2.5 The Council shall prepare its own Rules of Procedure, in accordance with rules under 5.2.2 and 5.2.3, for approval by a General Assembly.

5.2.6 The Council shall approve Rules of Procedure for the secretariat, including rules on financial matters.

5.2.7 Associate Members shall be represented at Council in one of two ways. Associate Members which are Europe-wide institutions shall be eligible for permanent observer status on the Council and pay an annual contribution in cash and kind agreed with the Council. Other Associate Members shall also pay an annual contribution in cash or kind agreed with the Council, but shall choose from amongst themselves one Associate Member to represent each of the categories of Associate Members which Council may designate from time to time. Associate Members elected to attend sessions of Council may, like other Representatives at Council, speak when invited by the Presiding Officer.

## 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-Presidents

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.

### 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.

## 5.4 Cross-membership of Member Societies

The President of each Member Society shall ex-officio be a member, free of charge, of all other Member Societies.

## 5.5 Secretariat matters

### 5.5.1 Secretariat

There shall be a Secretariat of appropriate size, composition and location. These shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the Members present and voting at a General Assembly, having heard a recommendation by the Council. The Secretariat shall coordinate and assist the work of the Officers

and the General Assembly.

#### 5.5.2 Executive Secretary

5.5.2.1 The Executive Secretary shall be the senior official employed by the Society.

5.5.2.2 The Executive Secretary shall report to the Council, act as its Secretary and direct the work of the Secretariat.

5.5.2.3 The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Council, for such period as it may decide and on terms which accord with the law of the country in which the Secretariat is located. Other staff, if any, shall be appointed by the Executive Secretary, within a complement agreed by the Council and on terms agreed by the Council which accord with the law in the country of employment.

5.5.2.4 The terms of appointments shall be agreed by Council by simple majority vote.

#### 5.5.3 Bank account

There shall be a bank account in the currency of the country in which the Secretariat is located. On the decision of Council, accounts may be set up elsewhere and in other currencies. Orders and payments up to an amount which shall be decided by Council from time to time shall be valid on the signature of any one of the Officers of the Society or that of the Executive Secretary or a named deputy, if any. Orders and payments exceeding that amount shall be valid on the signatures of either an Officer and the Executive Secretary (or nominated deputy), or on the signature of the Executive Secretary alone following written authorization for each occasion by an Officer of the Society.

### 6 Funding

The Society shall be a non-profit-making body funding its activities by revenues raised from those activities, as well as by annual membership fees from Member Societies, donations and other income.

### 7 Communications

7.1 Communications within the Society, and between the Society and its Members, shall be in English. However, important documents, such as contractual documents, may, upon request to the Executive Secretary by one or more Members, be in either the English, French or German languages. Documents to be used in litigation or for other legal purposes in the State in which the seat of the Society is located shall be in a language of that State.

7.2 Each document appearing in more than one language shall state which language version is definitive.

### 8 Applicable law

In case of a legal dispute, the applicable law shall be that of the State in which the seat of the Society is located.

### 9 Changes in this Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at a General Assembly by a two-thirds vote of the Members present, if at least eight weeks notice is given for the Assembly and for the proposed amendments. Such an Assembly may be either an annual General Assembly or one called for the purpose, either by the Council or by at least six Members of the Society.

### 10 Arrangements for dissolving the Society

The Society shall be dissolved only by a decision of a General Assembly. Arrangements shall be made according to the law of the State in which the seat of the Society is located. Assets, which remain after

dissolution of the EMS, can only be transferred to another geo-scientific Society acting for the public welfare. If the Society is dissolved, or if the Society changes its Constitution in such a way that the Society's purposes would no longer be tax-favored, then its assets shall pass either to a charity recognized as a corporate body under the public law or to another corporate body which has tax-favoured status for the purpose of promoting geo-science.

### **Transition arrangements for paragraph 5.2.2.: 2014 to 2016**

**The six elected Members of Council referred to in paragraph 5.2.2, will normally serve for three years (from 2014 on). However, initially, in order to ensure later continuity, the term of only one Member serving until 2014 shall be extended until 2015 and the term of only two Members serving until 2015 shall be extended until 2016: those members will be designated by the General Assembly.**