

11th Meeting of the EMS Council
Nice, France, 26 September 2004
Final Minutes approved by the 12th 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 all 9 Councillors were present – although the Council was complete only after Agenda Item 7.3.

Present:

Councillors

Pal Ambrozy (MMT, Budapest), David Axford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMS, Reading), Constanta Boroneant (SMR, Bucharest), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Praha), Raino Heino (EMS Vice President, GS, Helsinki), Nikos Karatarakis (HMH, Athens – from agenda item 7.3 on), René Morin (EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Rosa Maria Rodriguez (AME, Spain), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

Observers/Experts/Guests

Rasmus Benestad (Guest, FM), Tanja Cegnar (Guest, Chair of the EMS Media Committee, SMD), Richard Pettifer (Guest, RMS), Evangelina Oriol-Pibernat (Observer, ESA), Ernest Rudel (Observer, Nat. Met. Services), Fulvio Stel (Observer, Service Providers).

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

Beginning: 08:35 End: 13:15

1. Welcome

The EMS President opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He pointed out the crucial phase of EMS which is marked by organizing its Annual Meeting as a large scientific conference. All participants briefly introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by a vote of (8/0/0).

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 10th Council Meeting

The Minutes of the 10th Council Meeting in Bucharest were accepted by a vote of (8/0/0).

4. Reports of Bureau and Secretariat

The President reported about his steering, consulting and representing activities and added that he had recently (19-20 September 2004) been to Bucharest for the 120th Anniversary of the Romanian National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. He explicitly thanked Eumetsat and ECMWF for their support of the EMS Annual Meeting – the extra funding received from these institutions helped secure a number of EMS Awards and helped raising the EMS Executive Secretary's salary to 100% for half a year, acknowledging the additional workload for the initialization of the Annual Meeting in its expanded form.

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. They were, in addition, involved in the preparations for the 5th EMS Annual Meeting.

The EMS Membership drive continued, and the Belgian, as well as the German National Weather Service could be won as new Associate Members. Further activities led to Associate Membership applications by the companies MODEM and Campbell Industries. There are contacts with more Weather Services (e.g., Italy, Norway, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary) and companies (e.g., Scintec and others) to join EMS as Associate Members. The proposed change in Associate Membership fee according to their declared number of employees is expected to help increasing the number of Associate Members.

The EMS Executive Secretary had been active in administrative matters, e.g. running the EMS Secretariat and its correspondence as well as becoming Secretary for several EMS committees. Organizing the 4th EMS Annual Meeting in Nice was a major effort, done in close co-operation with the Copernicus Organization and the COST Secretariat. Preparations for the 5th EMS Annual Meeting in Utrecht are ongoing. Furthermore he was active in contents matters, particularly for the EMS Education, Meetings,

Media and Publications Committee. Other activities included work for the Advisory Board of the ECAC-Conference (part and partner at the 4th EMS Annual Meeting) and presenting the EMS Annual Meeting to the COST Technical Committee. In conjunction with the 4th Annual Meeting in Nice, he was chairing two sessions, giving one presentation in the Education session and was the co-author of a second presentation of that session.

5. EMS Committees

Note: In order to add to the efficiency of producing the working documents well ahead of the appropriate meetings, the Chairs of the Committees should, for each Council Meeting and General Assembly, submit their reports about 6-8 weeks in advance. Each report should include the current Committee membership.

5.1 Accreditation

The Chair of the Accreditation Committee, David Axford underlined that following EU decision to officially recognize the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) system, the Royal Meteorological Society has become a designated authority for certification and that work is being carried out to implement the practical application scheme. After 1 November 2004, qualifications will be possible. He pointed out that anyone from anywhere can apply, since it is a EU requirement that no language restriction shall exist. More information is available on the RMS web site:

<http://www.rmets.org/pdf/cmnetweb.pdf>. A side meeting during the EMS Annual Meeting was called by the Chair of the Accreditation Chair.

5.2 Awards

The Chair of the EMS Awards Committee, Werner Wehry, reported that the price money for 2004 is exceptionally large because of a most generous support by Eumetsat and ECMWF. In addition, it was possible through the 4th Annual Meeting's budget that more than 25 participants could receive travel funding and free entry (waivers). The amount to be distributed in 2005 is not as large as in 2004. Its distribution across meetings will be discussed within the Awards Committee. It should be noted that through giving Awards good linkages to other conferences are established and maintained. This strategy has to be re-examined regularly.

The Royal Meteorological Society has announced the Rupert Ford Travel Award which will be made known through the EMS information means as well.

5.3 Education

The Committee Chair Tomas Halenka reported about a school education-oriented activity in the 6th EU Framework Programme. Furthermore, there is a conference on primary school education in the Netherlands which Jon Wieringa is going to attend. With respect to the ECTOM II activity the database and its web implementation are fully operational. Strategies to receive input were discussed. It appears not to be sufficient data-mining all the university institutes' web pages for ECTOM input. National contacts are required to assess and complete the available information. In order to approach the institutes in a country, the Education Committee Chair has been asked to condense the ECTOM rationale and description into a document of about half a page's length. This should be translated by the national contacts and distributed to the institutes. One must not overlook that there will be constant updating necessary.

The quite successful contribution of the Committee Members to the EWOC Conference in Madrid will be summarized in an issue of the EMS Publication Series. The EMS Executive Secretary currently collects and edits the manuscripts; the plan is to print the issue before the end of 2004.

5.4 Media

The Media Committee has concentrated its efforts on networking. This included a side meeting at the First World Broadcast Meteorology Conference in Barcelona in July 2004, where future co-operation options of IABM, EMS, the International Weather Forum (IWF) and AMS were discussed. Subsequently, the Media Session at the 4th EMS Annual Meeting and the EMS contribution to the IWF were shaped. A further future challenge lies within the potential establishment of an accreditation scheme for media meteorologists. The Education Committee may in the future also become involved in training course activities and workshops for media people. The Media Committee Chair, Tanja Cegnar, also distributed a flyer on the activities of the EMS Media Committee, its membership and the Media Session at the 4th Annual Meeting. It was discussed whether weather TV organizations or stations could be won as EMS Associate Members or sponsors for media sessions. This will have to be evaluated in light of the commercial revenue of such events.

5.5 Meetings

Hans Sandebring, had announced his retirement from the EMS Meeting Committee Chair's post. As no immediate successor has yet been identified, the EMS President and the EMS Executive Secretary are keeping the Meeting Committee's momentum. Organization matters as well as contributing to the contents of the EMS Annual Meeting has been a central activity of the Secretary. He reported about the process and progress, including the experiences in conjunction with the Annual Meeting's new approach, as well as with the "Part-and-Partner" concept that was launched with the European Conference on Applied Climatology in 2004 and will be continued with the European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) in 2005. Quite important factors are the very good relations with the Copernicus Organization and the synergy of the EMS Annual Meeting and the COST Actions, which sponsored the travelling of a substantial number of EMS4 participants and had the opportunity to organize Working Group Meetings involving many scientists who gave presentations at the EMS4. Apart from its relation to the Annual Meetings, one other important activity of the EMS Meetings Committee is the harmonization of international, regional and national conferences. This can be in the form of an information hub to avoid running meetings in parallel in different countries as well as attracting conferences and workshops to become part and partner of the EMS Annual Meetings.

5.6 Publications

The paper presented by the EMS Publication Committee Chair, Bob Riddaway at the Council Meeting in Bucharest remains up for discussion. It should be added that the subject of post-EMS4 publications was dealt with by referring to the expertise and connections of the session conveners and by pointing out that there are publication means in conjunction with Meteorological Societies – including the EMS Publication Series – and suggesting to consider them. With respect to the EMS Publication Series, the issue on the EWOC Conference in Madrid will be printed before the end of 2004. With respect to the EMS Newsletter, the 9th issue has been announced to be printed before the end of 2004. From 2005 on, two Newsletter issues per year are foreseen.

5.7 Mission Statement/Strategic Development Group

Activities to update the EMS Mission Statement are under way. It was pointed out that in order to meet ambitious goals, EMS needs to look increasingly into revenue options. A favourable way ahead also includes an enhanced involvement of EMS Associate Members in EMS activities. There are already promising examples. Although, for financial reasons, currently not affordable is an enlargement of the EMS staff. Mid term planning should nevertheless take an information officer post into consideration.

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.

The Treasurer was thanked for his work and Resolution C65 was voted (8/0/0).

6.2 Audit for EMS Accounts

The Executive Secretary reported about an audit of the EMS records, bookkeeping and account which took place on 8 April 2004 in the EMS Secretariat and was carried out by the lawyer and tax advisor Frank Lucas.

The Executive Secretary was thanked for preparing a translation of the audit report into English. The outcome was that the auditor was pleased with the bookkeeping and recording in the EMS Secretariat. He acknowledged that the work of EMS was consistent with the aims set out in the EMS Constitution. Concluding, he recommended to the tax office to maintain EMS' tax-favoured status. In order to meet the auditors request for more overall documentation on EMS' activities it was proposed that EMS should henceforth prepare Annual Reports, which, in a structured manner, would be based on the input from the EMS Bureau, Committee Chairs and Secretariat. Furthermore, the reimbursement for travelling on EMS mission will henceforth need to be complemented by a somewhat more detailed documentation, such as copies of invitations, agendae and other meeting-related material.

6.3 Financial Planning

The EMS Treasurer underlined that a trend continues which remains a challenge for the future: EMS increases its activities and yet the raise in expenditure is not fully compensated by a raise in income. This is, in particular, the case for travelling on EMS missions. However, 2003 and 2004 were exceptional with respect to the launch of the EMS Annual Meeting in its expanded form, and, e.g., the nec-

essary preparatory meetings. The 2005 budget has to take into account that the German Meteorological Society has announced that they will not be able to sustain the current level of voluntary extra support beyond its regular Membership Fee – which was even almost three times as large in the three initial years of EMS' existence. RMS and SMF announced that they will continue to pay the current amounts.

There are assumptions and expectations that the Associate Membership Fee structure (cf. 7.1) will be the source of additional income. Moreover, the Annual Meetings will need to develop into a source of more income.

Council thanked the EMS Treasurer for the financial planning document and Resolution C66 was voted (7/0/1).

7. Membership

7.1 Modifications to the Associate Membership Fee structure

At past Council Meetings, a modified structure for the EMS Associate Membership was discussed. It is based on five categories, according to the number of employees of an Associate Member. The General Assembly, being EMS' highest Sovereign is the appropriate body to enact such a structure. Thus, Resolution C67 was voted (8/0/0).

7.2 New Member Societies and Associate Members

Following an introduction by Raino Heino, Resolution C68 was voted (8/0/0) and a potential New Member from Finland, the Geofyysikkojen liitto (GFL) was invited to join EMS.

Note: Including the ~220 GFL Members, EMS would represent about 10,400 individuals.

The invitation to DWD to become Associate Member was decided upon at the previous Council Meeting. Since then the Royal Meteorological Institute in Brussels applied for Membership. Resolution C69 was voted (8/0/0).

The company MODEM had applied for Associate Membership; owing to its number of employees Associate Membership for MODEM should be considered following the General Assembly decision on the modified Associate Membership Fee structure. Resolution C70 was voted (8/0/0).

The company Campbell Industries had applied for Associate Membership; owing to its number of employees Associate Membership should be considered following the General Assembly decision on the modified Associate Membership Fee structure. Resolution C71 was voted (8/0/0).

Appendix B gives list of Members and Associates (confidently already including GFL, DWD and RMI).

7.3 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 mentioned that the modified Associate Member Fee structure (cf. 7.1) may be beneficial.

7.4 Individual Membership

The discussion of this item can be summarized as follows. Pro: (i) Enthusiastic individuals who request personal membership in EMS to better identify themselves with its aims would be adding to EMS' efficiency in its activities; (ii) EMS would possess a measure to honour dedicated individuals who deserve such a merit; (iii) it would be beneficial to the EMS income. Con: (i) A Society of Societies is not a place for individual Members; (ii) Membership in the Member Societies might be reduced once people would be enabled join EMS; (iii) necessary changes to the EMS Constitution are complicated and costly.

8. Statements of EMS

The questions raised by Rasmus Benestad (cf. Appendix C) underline that consensus with respect to this matter may need to be reached. The issue is to be further discussed within the Strategic Development Group.

9. Agreements

Since these agreements are in an early stage and since more discussion is needed, for which the time at the Council Meeting was not sufficient, Councillors are encouraged to continue the discussion during the following weeks. The EMS Secretariat will serve as the information hub.

10. Election of EMS Vice Presidents

According to para 5.3.2 of the EMS Constitution, [...] *Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually and be eligible for re-election.*

The Resolutions C72, C73 and C74 were passed. The voting results: C72 (9/0/0), C73 (8/0/1) and C74 (8/0/1).

11. Miscellaneous

The EMS Past President reported about a letter by the outgoing Director of KNMI, Prof. de Jong, informing about his retirement. The letter will be given to the EMS Executive Secretary.

12. Time and place of the next Council Session

The 12th EMS Council will convene in Athens. Local arrangements will be made by Dr. Michael Petrakis Director, Institute for Environmental Research & Sustainable Development, National Observatory of Athens. An initial contact between Dr. Petrakis and the EMS Executive Secretary has already been made in July 2004. The exact date needs to be fixed, boundary conditions being the Greek Easter and the placement of the EGU General Assembly. It would thus be feasible to have the Council convene on 21 and 22 April 2005. The exact location will be given in due time.

Werner Wehry closed the 11th EMS Council Meeting at 13:15.

Arne Spekat

Appendix A

Resolutions

C65 Approval of Treasurer's report

C66 Approval of financial planning

C67 Proposal to General Assembly concerning modified fee structure for Associate Members.

C68 Welcome of Geo Fysikkojen Liitto (GFL - Finnish Association of Geophysicists) as new Member.

C69 Welcome of RMI as Associate Member – proposed category > 41 employees.

C70 Recommendation of MODIS as Associate Member – proposed category < 10 employees.

C71 Recommendation of Campbell Industries as Associate Member.

C72 Election EMS Vice President with honorary title Past President

C73 Election EMS Vice President and Treasurer

C74 Election EMS Vice President

C65

This Council approves the Report of the Treasurer.

C66

This Council approves the projected EMS budget for 2005.

C67

Amendment to EMS Associate Members Fees

It is proposed to the EMS General Assembly that it should pass a Resolution with respect to the annual fees for EMS Associate Members; these fees should be charged according to their 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

C68

This EMS Council invites the Geo Fysikkojen Liitto (GFL - Finnish Association of Geophysicists) to become an EMS Member.

C69

This EMS Council invites the Royal Meteorological Institute (RMI), Belgium to become an Associate Member – it is proposed that RMI will be in the category of Associate Members with more than 40 employees. RMI will be in the National Weather Services group of EMS Associate Members

C70

This EMS Council supports the application of the company MODIS to become an Associate Member – it is proposed that MODIS will be in the category of Associate Members with less than 10 employees. MODIS will be in the Manufacturers group of EMS Associate Members.

C71

This EMS Council supports the application of the company Campbell Scientific to become an Associate Member. Campbell Scientific will be in the Manufacturers group of EMS Associate Members.

C72

This EMS Council elects René Morin as a Vice President with the honorary title Past President, David Axford as a Vice President with the post of the EMS Treasurer and Raino Heino as a Vice President. The term is one year.

Appendix B

EMS MEMBER SOCIETIES:

1. *Asociación Española de Biometeorología, Spain*
2. *Asociación Meteorológica Española, Spain*
3. *Associação Portuguesa de Meteorologia e Geofísica, Portugal*
4. *Associazione Geofisica Italiana, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
5. *Associazione Italiana di AgroMeteorologia, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
6. *Aviometeorological Club (AMC), Bulgaria*
7. *Ceska Meteorologicka Spolecnost, Czech Republic*
8. *Dansk Meteorologisk Selskab, Denmark*
9. *Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft, Germany*
10. *Helliniki Meteorologiki Hetairia, Greece*
11. *Félag íslenskra veðurfræðinga, Iceland*
12. *Forskerforbundets meteorologiforening, Norway*
13. *Geofysiikan Seura, Finland*
14. *Geofyysikkojen Liitto, Finland*
15. *Hrvatsko Meteorolosko Drustvo, Croatia*
16. *Irish Meteorological Society, Ireland*
17. *Magyar Meteorológiai Társaság, Hungary*
18. *Meteo Mak, Meteorological Association of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*
19. *Meteorolosko drustvo Srbija, Serbia and Montenegro*
20. *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Beroeps Meteorologen, The Netherlands*
21. *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, Austria*
22. *Royal Meteorological Society, United Kingdom*
23. *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, Switzerland*
24. *Slovenska Meteorologicka Spolecnost, Slovakia*
25. *Slovensko Meteorolosko Drustvo, Slovenia*
26. *Società Italiana di Meteorologia Applicata, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
27. *Società Meteorologica Italiana, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
28. *Società Meteorologica Romana, Romania*
29. *Société Météorologique de France, France*
30. *Société Royale Belge d'Astronomie, de Météorologie et de Physique du Globe, Belgium*
31. *Svenska Meteorologiska Sällskapet, Sweden*
32. *Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*

ASSOCIATE EMS MEMBERS:

Permanent observer status

ECMWF
ESA
EUMETSAT

Group observer status – National Weather Services

Austria: ZAMG
Belgium: Royal Belgian Meteorological Institute
Czech Republic: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
France: Météo France
Germany: Deutscher Wetterdienst
Netherlands: KNMI
Sweden: SMHI
Switzerland: MeteoSwiss
United Kingdom: The MetOffice

Group observer status – Manufacturers

AerotechTelub AB
GEMATRONIK
VAISALA
VCS Engineering

Group observer status – Service providers, regional services

Meteo Consult B.V.
Meteognosis
OSMER: Regional Meteorological Observatory of ARPA Friuli Venezia Giulia
Weather News International – Oceanroutes

Appendix C

From a message by Rasmus Benestad (FM, Norway)

We had a discussion about EMS in a NMF meeting, and I asked the NMF committee leaders if there were any points that I should raise at the upcoming EMS meeting. I noted the following 4 points:

1. How to get involved in committees.
2. How to motivate our national met institute to become a support member?.
3. More transparency in committee work and more frequent dissemination of results/concepts/activities.
4. Networking and forum for interchanging ideas and knowledge. A concrete example: who can we contact if we want to document the societal benefits from improved forecasts? Apparently, the UK Met Office has conducted such a survey.

In addition, I feel there is a further point that needs to be discussed. I feel that we have an obligation to provide the public with correct information not only on meteorological issues, but also on the subject of climate and climate change. But, this is only a personal view, and there is a need to discuss our role. In Norway, we see an increasing effort from climate sceptics to channel their views to the public especially through science news channel that was initiated by the Norwegian Science Foundation and that has adopted a very liberal attitude to the quality of the information. The following citation (from their Internet site) says quite a lot:

"/It seems like www.forskning.no in Norway is a governmental research orientated site that allow climatesceptics to get published. Just look at the site and practice your Norwegian language skill/."

So I'd like to add point 5:

5. What role should we play in the current climate debate and what are our obligations?