

**16<sup>th</sup> EMS Council**  
**17 – 18 April 2007, Belgrade**  
**Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia**

**Minutes approved by the 17<sup>th</sup> Council Session**

**Participants:** (voting councillors underlined)

David Burridge (Chair, EMS President, RMetS UK)

Tanja Cegnar (Chairwoman Media Committee, SMD Slovenia)

Manuel Rosa Dias (APMG Portugal)

Tomáš Halenka (CMeS Czech Republic, Vice President and Treasurer)

Raino Heino (GS Finland, EMS Vice President)

Howard Lyne (Chairman Accreditation Committee, RMetS)

Manuel Palomares (observer for NMS, invited expert ECAM)

Claude Pastre (SMF France)

Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)

Vesna Petkovic (MDS Serbia)

Bob Riddaway (Chairman Publications Committee, observer ECMWF, RMetS)

Aryan van Engelen (ECSN, KNMI, invited expert ECAC 2008)

Werner Wehry (DMG Germany, EMS Past-President)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

Duration of meeting 17 April 2007 (10:00 – 17:30)

### **1. Opening of session**

The Deputy Director of the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, Branko Zivlak, welcomed the EMS Council in Belgrade and expressed the wish that the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of Council would be successful. He invoked the spirit of Milutin Milanković, a Serbian and at the same time a truly European scientist, who is an example of the European spirit that is clearly a motivation for the existence of the EMS. The EMS President, David Burridge, opened the meeting by thanking Dr. Zivlak for his welcome, welcomed all the participants and also thanked Vesna Petkovic and the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia for hosting and providing the local organisation for this meeting. The President welcomed the new members of the Council, Vesna Petković (MDS, Serbia), Manuel P. Rosa Dias (APMG, Portugal) and Claude Pastre (SMF, France).

### **2. Acceptance of Agenda**

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (see **Annex I**), with the addition that the part of the Publications Committee report that is related to 6.2 EMS7/ECAM8 shall be discussed under item 6.2.

### **3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the EMS Council**

With a minor spelling correction the minutes of the 15th session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (**Annex XVII**).

## 4. Reports of Bureau and Secretariat

### 4.1 The President's report

The President reported on his activities since the 15th Council Session (report in **Annex II**). In section 2 of his report the President reported that he had given consideration to the working hours of the Executive Secretary and he asked Council to agree to an increase of paid working hours from 32 to 40. This was agreed unanimously.

### 4.2 Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Secretary noted that, in accordance with the General Assembly decision, membership fees have been increased to 1.02 € per individual member of a member society for the year 2007 and that the audit for the financial year 2006 had been carried out. She also noted that the cooperative status of the EMS with the AMS was still unclear and she agreed to follow up this issue and inform members in due course. The report is annexed in **Annex III**.

### 4.3 Vice Presidents' Reports

The Vice Presidents Werner Wehry and Tomáš Halenka reported on their activities since the 15th Council session (**Annex IV**).

Werner Wehry will retire from the EMS Council in the autumn, and Gerhard Steinhorst, DWD, has been nominated by DMG as the representative on the EMS Council.

The report of the Vice President Raino Heino focussed on the need for a membership drive to attract new associate members particularly. He has also been active in the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting and European Conference on Applications of Meteorology 2007, as member of the ECAC Advisory Board of ECSN, and as convenor of the Climatology programme part.

## 5. Finance

### 5.1 Financial report

The EMS Treasurer presented the Financial Report (**Annex V**), which included the Financial Accounts for the year 2006, the cash flow as of March 2007, the current state of the accounts, a revised proposal for the 2008 budget and revised figures for the Financial Accounts of the year 2005.

The financial situation of EMS has improved during the last year, owing to the net surplus from the Fifth EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM in 2005 and the Sixth EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC in 2006.

The EMS Council took note of the Report of Treasurer.

The following issues were discussed:

#### a) Accounts for the year 2006:

On the Income side, €2,500 in membership fees have not yet been received. Notwithstanding that, the accounts for the year 2006 should be closed, and outstanding amounts be recognized in the summary statement as debts. The date for the closure of accounts of the financial year is agreed to be the 31 December of the respective calendar year, allowing for a period of grace of

one month. It was stressed that the auditor should not only audit the bank account but also recognize the expected income and expenditure as laid out in the budget.

b) Budget and forecast for the year 2007

The Financial Summary for 2007 includes income and expenditure until 31 March 2007. What is needed is a realistic **forecast** of income and expenditure in 2007, based on the results of 2006 and known commitments. This forecast will then serve as basis for the budget 2008.

c) Proposal for the Budget for the year 2008

Council took note of the 2008 prospects. The basis for a revised 2008 budget proposal will be presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council and should be based on the 2006 expenditure and the forecast for 2007.

d) Accounts for the year 2005:

When the accounts for 2005 were presented to the Council and the General Assembly in September 2006, membership fee payments that had not actually been received were not recognized as debts. Some of these fees for 2005 have still not been paid and thus the financial result of 2005 is 2678.35€ less than presented. The Excess of income over expenditure in 2005 is thus ~~€4,082.71~~, and the balance after 2005 ~~€30,012.72~~. The General Assembly will be informed at its 9<sup>th</sup> session on 30 September 2007.

## 6. EMS Meetings

### 6.1 Final Report on preparation on the EMS6

The final report on the 6<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting and the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Applied Climatology is appended in **Annex VI**. The financial result is a surplus of approximately €18,000.

### 6.2 Report on preparation of EMS7 and ECAM8 meetings

The Executive Secretary reported on the state of preparations of the EMS7 and ECAM8 meetings to be held 1 – 5 October 2007 in Euroforum, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain (**Annex VII**). Manuel Palomares, INM, local organiser and main coordinator of the ECAM programme part, gave back-ground information on the chosen venue, and informed that the community of San Lorenzo has been approached to inquire if there is any interest in holding a reception in the Town Hall on the Tuesday of the conference week.

Concern was expressed as to the development of the ECAM programme, in particular of session AM2: Strategies for the future of meteorology in Europe, which is planned to feature various solicited contributions from relevant organisations in the meteorological field in Europe. A working group meeting to plan rapid action met during this session of Council.

A concept for the publication of short conference papers had been developed (see report of the Publications Committee, **Annex XIV**). The EMS promotes the open access publication in the journal *Advances in Science and Research*. With regard to EMS support, it was agreed that funds would be provided for those authors whose institutions are not in a situation to cover the page charges. The budget for these funds is limited to €5000 (which would cover approximately 60 papers).

### **6.3 Location of EMS 2008 Annual Meeting and EC on Applied Climatology**

The Executive Secretary reported on the investigation of five possible venues for future EMS Annual Meeting meetings (see report in **Annex XIII**). These were in Amsterdam, Lodz, Innsbruck, Lausanne and Zurich. Two venues are commercial conference centres and three are University premises. The conference centre costs were comparable with those charged in Ljubljana and the University facilities being considerably cheaper, in particular Lodz University was available at no cost for rooms and technical equipment.

Amsterdam is strongly favoured by KNMI, NVBM, and in particular the EUMETNET Programme ECSN, the organiser of a major part of the EMS/ECAC meetings. Aryan van Engelen, ECSN Manager, stressed that ECSN is of the opinion that the ECAC should be hosted in the country of the Responsible Member for the EUMETNET-ECSN Programme. The fruitful collaboration and partnership with EMS was stressed as was the strong wish to continue this collaboration - strong practical support from KNMI could be expected.

The RAI Amsterdam offer will be evaluated in depth by the EMS Executive Secretary, the ECSN Manager and the EMS President, and the financial implications considered. A final decision will be taken on the basis of the results of these investigations. If Amsterdam is chosen, the other venues will be considered for future EMS/ECAC meetings.

## **7. Strategy Implementation**

The EMS president reported on the development and progress of a strategy implementation plan (**Annex IX**). After discussion it was agreed to reconstitute the Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) with the following membership:

David Burrige (Chair)  
Ramus Benestad  
Claude Pastre  
Bob Riddaway (Representing the Publications Committee)  
Howard Lyne (Representing the Accreditation Committee)  
Jean-Pierre Chalon (EUMETNET)  
A representative of Associate Members (to be confirmed)

The SIG was asked to produce a draft strategy implementation plan for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Council (El Escorial, 30 September 2007). A first meeting of the SIG is planned for 27-28 June 2007.

## **8. EMS Committees – reports**

### **8.1 Accreditation**

The Chairman, Howard Lyne, reported on the activities of the Accreditation Committee, in particular regarding the Eumetcal college proposal (**Annex X**). Different options for the endorsement of a European certificate have been presented to the Council, including a recommendation as to the level of involvement of EMS. However, EUMETNET does not at the moment consider a European certification necessary to comply with the Single European Sky (SES) directive. Thus at the moment there is no requirement for the EMS to further consider its involvement.

The Chairman noted that the Terms of Reference of the committee are out of date and presented a proposal for amended ToRs.

The Council agreed that a new definition of the aims of the Accreditation Committee should be considered by the reconstituted Strategy Implementation Group as part of the overall EMS strategy.

The Council asked the Accreditation Committee to summarize the results of the committee activities since its establishment.

## 8.2 Awards

The Chairman, Werner Wehry, reported on existing Awards, presented a proposal for an EMS Honour Medal, and asked the Council to allocate €500 for each Young Scientist Travel Award (YSTA) (**Annex XI**).

The Council agreed to endow YSTAs with €500 each, as set out in the Terms of Reference of the committee. However, the amount of money set out in the budget for 2007 was not increased.

The proposal for an EMS Honour Medal was discussed and the opinion that the Medal should acknowledge contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe rather than academic achievements was shared by all participants. The proposal will be redrafted to be presented to the seventeenth council session (30 September 2007, El Escorial). The costs for a medal will also have to be investigated and the result presented together with the proposal.

Evangelina Oriol-Pibernat (ESA/ESRIN) and René Morin (SMF, France) both resign after many years of committed work for the Awards Committee. Council thanked both for their enthusiasm and wise judgement they always showed in their decisions.

The EMS Council appointed Sarah Jones (DMG, Germany), Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT) and Dario Giaotti (UMVFG, Italy) as members of the EMS Awards Committee for an initial period of three years. Jan Bednar (CMeS, Czech Republic) and Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland) were reappointed for one year (Council Resolution 100, **Annex XVI**, votes: 8-0-0).

It was noted that at the next Council session a new Chair of the Awards Committee will have to be elected.

## 8.3 Education

The Chairman reported on his activities related to the preparation of the Education Session at EMS6, new collaboration with the ACCENT project (FP6 Network of Excellence on the composition of the atmosphere that also considers educational aspects) and his participation at the EWOC conference in Boulder (USA) (**Annex XII**).

The next EWOC meeting will be held in Prague in 2009 and the Chair asked the EMS Council to support the organisation of this meeting. The EWOC meetings enjoy a participation of around 150 participants and AMS is providing organisational support.

The EMS Council agreed that the role of EMS will be

- to promote the conference on its website and other channels of information
- to fund awards for the participation at this conference
- to encourage sponsorship of the conference by EMS Associates and EMS Members

The representation of APMG on the Education Committee has to be clarified.

## 8.4 Media

The Chairperson, Tanja Cegnar, reported on the activities of the Media Committee (**Annex XIII**). The publication of a DVD with contributions to the Media Session of the EMS Annual Meeting in Ljubljana is imminent.

Proposals for two Media Awards will be presented, one of them for life achievement. As laid out in the report, an EMS Media Award at the International Weather Forum (IWF) will not be pursued, but other forms of co-operation are actively investigated.

The protocol of an agreement between IABM and the EMS Media Committee is in preparation.

The Council was asked to amend the Terms of Reference of the committee to allow more flexibility in membership recruitment that goes beyond delegates of member societies. As with the Accreditation Committee the Council was of the opinion that Terms of Reference of all committees should be discussed as part of the overall strategy implementation and the role of committees defined on that basis. Council considered that the Terms of Reference in force now allow an interpretation that would enable the Media Committee to recruit members in the wider media community.

## 8.5 Publication

The Chairman, Bob Riddaway, asked the Council (**Annex XIV**)

(a) To note that:

- A meeting was held with Copernicus on 20 October 2006 to discuss open access publication and ways in which material from the EMS Annual Meetings could be published
- Arrangements have been made with Copernicus for the publication of material from EMS6/ECAS6 in an open access journal "*Advances in Science and Research*" with convenors of sessions acting as editors.

(b) To agree in principle the extent to which financial support would be provided by EMS for the publication of articles from EMS7/ECAM8 in "*Advances in Science and Research*" (already discussed under agenda item 6.2)

(c) To agree publication of the 2006 EMS Annual Report (to be discussed under agenda item 9)

(d) To note that progress has been made with redeveloping the EMS web site, on which the Executive Secretary will give a separate report

With respect to (b), Council's decision is set out in paragraph 6.2 above.

The Executive Secretary presented the current state of development of the web site and the procedures to publish the website, including the remaining tasks (**Annex to Report of Publications Committee, XIV**).

It is aimed to publish the new web site by mid-June. This requires that all Council members and committee chairs have a thorough examination on the content of the web pages, currently accessible at <http://www.emetsoc.eu/vorschau>.

The Forum, as new feature of the web site, will need a regular monitoring, and the Council is aware of the risks that it may be used for aims other than an open discussion Forum of the

meteorological community. However, it was agreed not to restrict access to the Forum; this would contradict the aim and concept to involve the entire community. However, all contributors to the forum will have to register to access the Forum.

## **9. Annual Report**

A draft of the Annual Report 2006 was distributed to the participants of the Council meeting. Taking into account the discussion on strategy implementation (agenda item 7) and the financial accounts 2006 (agenda item 5), the Annual Report will be finalised by the Executive Secretary, approved by the President, and the Editor of the EMS Newsletter will then oversee the publication of the Annual Report.

## **10. Collaboration with Eumetcal College**

As explained in the report of the Accreditation Committee, EUMETNET at the moment does not consider it necessary to implement a European certification to meet the requirements of the Single European Sky directive. Thus there is at the moment no need for EMS to have a definitive decision on the degree of involvement in the accreditation process. In case this situation changes in future the options as laid out by the Chairman of the Accreditations Committee in his report (**Annex X**) will have to be reconsidered under the conditions then existing.

## **11. Membership**

### **11.1 New Member Societies**

There have been no applications.

### **11.2 New Associate Members**

The *Azeraeronavigation Enterprise*, Azerbaijan, has applied for EMS Associate Membership. The EMS Council has unanimously welcome this application (Resolution C101).

On 26 October 2006 a vote-by-correspondence was called to vote on the application of *OMSZ Hungarian Meteorological Service* as EMS Associate Member. The EMS Council has unanimously welcome this application (Resolution C102).

## **12. Council Composition**

### **12.1 Rotating Members**

The current composition of the Council, including the length of terms is attached in **Annex XV**. The Council noted that two councillors will have to be (re-)elected at the seventeenth Council session.

### **12.2 Bureau Composition**

This was not discussed.

## **13. AOB**

Manual Palomares gave a short account of the WMO Conference on “*Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services*” that was held 19 –

22 March in Madrid. It was noted that John Zillman will report on the outcome of the Conference in El Escorial.

**14. Time and place of 17th Council Session: 30 September 2007, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain**

Taking into account that the 17<sup>th</sup> Council Session will only be a half-day session, the agenda will have to reflect this. The main items for discussion will be:

- The draft strategy implementation plan
- The forecast of the financial accounts for 2007
- The 2008 Budget proposal
- The composition of Council
- Annual Meetings

Reports on activities of officers and committees will still be submitted to the Council, but only discussed if requested by Council members.