

**17<sup>th</sup> EMS Council Session**  
30 September 2007  
San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain

Minutes approved by the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session

**Participants:** (voting councillors underlined)

David Burridge (Chair, EMS President, RMetS UK)

Tanja Cegnar (Chairwoman Media Committee, SMD Slovenia)

Nikolai Dotzek (Director ESSL)

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)

Dominique Marbouty (ECMWF, permanent observer)

Claudius Marschalik (observer for Manufacturers; Gematronik)

Evangelina Oriol Pibernat (ESA, permanent observer)

Manuel Palomares (observer for NMS; INM)

Claude Pastre (SMF France)

Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)

Vesna Petkovic (MDS Serbia)

Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland)

Ernst Rudel (ZAMG, Austria)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG Germany)

Aryan van Engelen (ECSN, KNMI)

Werner Wehry (DMG Germany, EMS Vice-President)

8 Council Members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

Duration of meeting: 9:30 – 13:30

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

The President welcomed all participants to the Council Session.

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

The Agenda was accepted as proposed with the following two modifications (see **Annex I**):

- the original item 13 “*EMS Honours Award*” was brought forward before the original item 8 “*2008 Budget proposal*”;
- the “*Membership of the Committee on Education*” was discussed after the item “*Agreement ESSL – EMS*”

### **3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the EMS Council**

The minutes of the 16th session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (**Annex XX**).

#### 4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session (**Annex II**). He also reported verbally on the activities of the Vice Presidents (**Annex III**) and the Council Committees (**Annexes XV - XIX**).

The Awards Committee has given 12 YSTA so far in 2007 and prepared a paper on an EMS Honours Award; the Media Committee developed the Media Session at the EMS Annual Meeting, and created two new awards in collaboration with the Awards Committee. These were "The *Broadcast Meteorologist Award - life achievement*" and "The *Best TV weather forecast of the year – Video Clip Award (Trophy)*". EUMETSAT has offered funds to support the travel expenses of the *Broadcast Meteorologist Award*. – Laureate. The Education Committee developed the Education Session at the EMS Annual Meeting; the Publications Committee launched the new EMS web site and saw through the publication of EMS6/ECAC6 conference papers in the open access journal ASR.

The EMS President proposed to widen the eligible candidates for the EMS Presidency (**Annex II**).

After discussion it was agreed that every individual member of an EMS Member Society should be eligible for EMS Presidency and Vice-Presidency if the Council considered him or her capable for either of these positions. The following wording was subsequently proposed for voting to the EMS General Assembly:

##### *5.3.1 President*

*The Council shall appoint as President an individual who is a member of one of the Member Societies. The appointment shall be for a term of three years and Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election.*

##### *5.3.2 Vice-Presidents*

*The Council shall elect three Vice-Presidents who are members of one of the Member Societies, one of whom shall also serve as Treasurer. Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually and be eligible for re-election.*

#### 5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary gave an update of the written report provided to Council (**Annex III**), focussing on the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2007:

- 310 participants are pre-registered; considerably more participants than originally assumed are now expected
- additional support for the conference by COST has been offered
- the large number of side meetings indicates that the conference is on a good way to develop into a forum for the entire meteorological community

#### 6. Financial Report

The Financial report as given by the Treasurer to the EMS Council is provided in **Annex V** and the translation of the Report of the Auditor Frank Lucas in **Annex VI**.

## Accounts 2006

The Total Expenditure had to be corrected to 67,000 Euro. However, it was stressed again that the financial year starts on 1 January and ends on 31 December and Income or Expenditure nominally relating to the year but not received/paid in that year, membership fees for example, should be given separately as arrears/debts. In addition, a separate budget for the EMS Annual Meeting should be given as Annex to the accounts.

## Forecast and actual state of bank account 2007

- A simple presentation of the actual state of the cash flows does not improve the clarity of the financial situation and future presentations for the current year should focus on the forecast of expected income and expenditure by 31 December
- A separate forecast for the EMS Annual Meeting should be given as Annex
- In case the forecast of an item is markedly different from the agreed budget item, this should be explained in the Treasurer's Report.

The EMS Council approved the Report of the Treasurer (8:0:0).

## 7. EMS Annual Meetings

### 7.1 EMS Annual Meeting 2008

The venue for the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2008 will be RAI Amsterdam (**Annex VII**). Following negotiations with the conference centre RAI and commitments by KNMI to support the conference financially, including a substantial risk cover, the contract with RAI has been signed by Copernicus GmbH on behalf of EMS. Preparations are underway and a more detailed report will be given at the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

The EMS Council thanked the KNMI director, Frits Brouwer, for KNMI's and his personal strong support of the conference.

### 7.2 EMS Annual Meeting 2009

In June 2007 the EMS President received the offer from SMF and Météo-France to host the EMS Annual Meeting and the European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) - in the country of the first president of the EMS, René Morin. The offer has been accepted with pleasure by the EMS President. (**Annex VIII**).

The venue proposed is the conference centre of Météo-France in Toulouse; the meeting is planned for mid-September; the venue and possible dates will be investigated by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with SMF and Météo-France in the coming weeks and a more detailed report will be given at the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

### 7.3 EMS Annual Meeting 2010

SGM, Switzerland, has provided a detailed proposal to host the 2010 EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC in Zurich (**Annex IX**). The EMS Council accepted this proposal. Preliminary inquiries with ECSN members showed support for this venue, but fuller information of the ECSN in the coming weeks was deemed necessary by the ECSN manager.

Future EMS Annual Meetings:

Werner Wehry informed the EMS Council that the German Meteorological Society is interested to host the 2011 EMS Annual Meeting. DMG was asked to provide a detailed proposal; all further proposals for future EMS Annual Meetings (**Annex IX**) will be discussed at the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

## 8. Strategy Implementation Plan

The Strategy Implementation group presented a detailed plan, which recommended that the EMS focus on a small number of central objectives, and a proposal for the restructuring of the working bodies of the EMS and the Council (**Annex X**).

Discussion on objectives:

- revised objectives (page one of Annex 1, paper **Annex X**):
  1. *To **contribute to the advancement of the meteorological sciences (rather than advance)***
  2. *To promote best practice and to assist the development of applications of meteorology for the benefit of the public and **economic** activity*
- EMS does at the moment not meet the objective 3: *To provide advice on and contribute to the development of environmental policies in Europe*; possible future actions include to form a policy advisory group that can for example comment on policy papers like the EC Green paper on *Adapting to climate change in Europe - options for EU action*. Collaboration with EUMETNET shall be strengthened to better meet objective 3.

Discussion on Council bodies:

Five Council groupings have been proposed (the Accreditation Committee was not discussed in the Plan):

- Meetings Committee
- Communications Project Team
- Education Project Team
- Media Committee
- Policy Advisory Group

The objectives for each grouping are set out in **Annex X**.

The Meetings Committee will be re-constituted and the suggested membership is: Horst Böttger (ECMWF), Sylvain Joffre (FMI, COST), Pierre Bauer (SMF), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM), Hans Richner (SGM), Martina Junge (ex officio).

The Publications Committee shall be transformed into the Communications Project Team with objectives focussing on communication via the new EMS Web site.

The Education Project Team will have to play an important role in providing examples of best practice and this will require a more active involvement of all societies in the process.

The Media Committee is asked to focus its objectives formulated in the current Terms of Reference.

The Policy Advisory Group shall also evaluate continuously how the objectives of the EMS are met by the project teams, and based on that evaluation, propose new directions for existing project teams or the establishment of new project teams to the Council.

The Strategy Implementation Group was asked to present a revised strategy implementation plan for a final decision at the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

### 9. EMS Honours Award

As requested by the 16<sup>th</sup> EMS Council Session, the Awards Committee presented a revised proposal for an EMS Honours award (**Annex XI**).

After discussion, the following characteristics and procedures were agreed:

- the award shall be given to a ***person who has made distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe.***
- the Laureate will receive a medal, the award being named ***EMS Silver Medal***, presented during the EMS Annual Meeting; travel expenses for the laureate to the EMS Annual Meeting will be covered by the EMS (Awards budget)
- the Laureate will be asked to give a “hall lecture” – definitive name still to be agreed
- the *EMS Council* approves the candidate at its *Spring Session* each year (based on recommendations of the Awards Committee).

The Awards Committee is asked to revise the proposal including the Terms of Reference accordingly and resubmit the proposal to the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session. However, in order to not delay the implementation of an award, the Awards Committee should proceed informally and work on a proposal for a 2008 EMS Silver Medal Laureate, to be presented to the 18<sup>th</sup> Council Session. The Award shall be announced as soon as possible. (**Subsequently the EMS President announced the new award during the Opening Session of the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM on the following day**).

### 10. 2008 Budget

The proposal presented for the 2008 budget is attached in **Annex XII (a)**.

The budget as presented did foresee an overspending of almost 7000 Euro. The discussion concluded that overspending as one-offs for a particular year is acceptable to a certain degree, but long-term imbalances in the budget must not occur.

The following revisions were agreed (**Annex XII (b)**):

Expenditure:

- Awards budget decreased from 12,000 Euro to **10,000** Euro;
- *Printing publications* and *Newsletter* have been merged to *Printing publications and Annual Report* with a joint budget of **2,500** Euro;
- the budgets for the individual committees have been halved and – in light of the discussion on the strategy implementation – merged into one budget item *Committees* with **4,500** Euro.

Total expenditure with these revisions implemented: **83,800** Euro – the overspending foreseen for 2008 is **2,300** Euro.

This budget (**Annex XII (b)**) was agreed by Council unanimously (8:0:0).

The issue of a possible insurance against potential major losses in connection with the EMS Annual Meetings and potential liability of EMS Officers was raised. The Executive Secretary informed the Council that she is in the process of investigating the entire issue of insurances that are advisable for the society and will present a proposal to Council at its next session.

## **11. Membership**

Two national societies have declared an interest to join the EMS: the Spanish society of climatologists (AEC) and the Israel Meteorological Society, but no formal application has been received yet. No application for Associate Membership has been received since the last session of council.

## **12. Composition of Council and Council bodies**

The EMS President thanked Werner Wehry, the second President of the EMS, who had been very active in the EMS Bureau as Vice-President for several terms, for his long-standing service for the EMS. He has been centrally involved in the formation and founding of the EMS from the mid-nineties and with him one of the “historical figures” of EMS retires. At the same time he is also relinquishing his position as Chair of the Awards Committee, a position he has filled from the constitution of the committee; he leaves a well-established network and infrastructure to his successor. The Council wished Werner Wehry all the best for his “life after EMS”.

Tomas Halenka has served as EMS Vice President and Treasurer for the last two years and the EMS President thanked him for his commitment and engagement in both these positions. He will continue to play an important role in the Education Project Team to implement the EMS Strategy.

### **12.1 Rotating Members: proposal to General Assembly**

The proposal for election of the Polish Geophysical Society, represented by Joanna Wibig, to council for the term 2007 – 2009 has been welcome by council (**Annex XIII**).

### **12.2 Election of Vice-Presidents and Treasurer**

The EMS Council elected Gerhard Steinhorst, DMG, Germany, as Vice President and Treasurer for a one-year term (8:0:0).

The EMS Council elected Raino Heino as Vice President for another one-year term until autumn 2008 (8:0:0).

### **12.3 Election of Chair Awards Committee**

The EMS Council elected Dario Giaiotti, UMFVG, Italy, as Chair of the Awards Committee for a two-year term until autumn 2009. (8:0:0)

## **13. Collaboration – Memoranda of Understanding**

A Memorandum of Understanding between the *European Severe Storms Laboratory e.V.* (ESSL), founded in 2006, and the EMS has been prepared (**Annex XIV**), to deepen the already existing collaboration. The Agreement was accepted unanimously. The Agreement has been signed by the EMS President and the ESSL Director on 3 October 2007, the

signature of the ESSL Vice-Director (required by the constitution of ESSL) will finalise the acceptance of the agreement.

#### **14. AOB**

Education Committee Membership: The Portuguese membership in the Education committee could not be clarified unambiguously (see **Annex XVII**); it has been agreed by Council that two Portuguese APMG members are represented on the Education Committee: Carlos Alberto Leitão Pires and Margarida Liberato.

APMG reported on preparations for the International Year of the Planet Earth 2008 and more information can be found by following the link <http://www.progeo.pt/aipt>. For an English web site consult <http://www.iugs.org/>.

The Awards committee called for suggestions of conferences in 2008, for which Young Scientist Travel Awards should be announced. The Awards committee suggested that the eligibility for a Young Scientist Travel Award be widened to allow for late career candidates and candidates that have taken maternity/paternity leave during their studies. The Council did not follow that proposal but agreed to raise the age threshold to 35 years (instead of 32), to account for these circumstances.

#### **15. Next Council Session**

The 18th session of the EMS Council will be held at the Headquarters ECMWF (in Reading, UK) on 6 and 7 March 2008 and the meeting will start at 11.00 on 6 March 2008. The President thanked Dominique Marbouty (Director of ECMWF) for agreeing to host the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the EMS Council.

Martina Junge  
5 November 2007

#### **ANNEX A: Resolutions 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the EMS Council**

##### **Resolution C103**

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

##### **Resolution C104**

This EMS Council approves the Financial Budget for the year 2008 **Annex XII (b)**.

##### **Resolution C105**

This EMS Council elects Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG-Germany) as Vice President and Treasurer for a one-year term.

##### **Resolution C106**

This EMS Council elects Raino Heino (GS-Finland) as Vice President for a one-year term until autumn 2008.

##### **Resolution C107**

This EMS Council elects Dario Giaiotti, UMFVG, Italy, as Chair of the Awards Committee for a two-year term until autumn 2009.