

20th EMS Council Session
12-13 March 2009
Vienna, Austria

Minutes

Approved by the 21st Council Session, 27 September 2009

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Fritz Neuwirth Chair (EMS President, OeGM Austria)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG Germany, Vice President and Treasurer)

Joanna Wibiq (PTG, Poland, Vice-President)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, Vice-President, Project Team Communication)

Rolf Philipona (SGM Switzerland)

Claude Pastre (SMF, France)

Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Zoltan Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Doninique Marbouty (ECMWF, permanent observer)

Tomas Halenka (Project Team Education, CMeS Czech Republic)

Christoph Billard (Project Team Professional Practices)

9 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Votes are given as (acceptance:rejection:abstention)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

*Duration of meeting: 12 March 2009 13:00 – 17:00
13 March 2009, 9:30 – 11:30*

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President welcomed all participants, also in his capacity as director of the Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG), to the 20th EMS Council Session in the main building of ZAMG.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (**Annex I**).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 19th Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 19th session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (**Annex X**).

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session and also the activities of the Bureau. (**Annex II**): participation in the planning meeting for an International Forum of Meteorological Societies, preliminary talks to establish contacts with EUMETNET, and the preparation of the Annual Report.

The EMS Annual Report 2009 will be available as hard copy and provided to all Members and Associate Members, and collaborating bodies.

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (**Annex III**) which were strongly focussed on the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2009.

The report included the information that *Weathernews International* (WNI), London, has cancelled Associate Membership.

Membership Fees in 2009 are 1.07€ per individual member of a Member Society.

6. Report of the Treasurer

The Financial report as given by the Treasurer to the EMS Council is provided in **Annex IV**.

Financial Accounts 2008

- The EMS bank account shows 66 136.42€ as at 31 December 2008, with 6165.94€ Euro surplus of income over expenditure for the financial year 2008.
- The accounts include 45,328.80€ surplus from the seventh EMS Annual Meeting and eighth European Conference on Applications of Meteorology 2007 in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, that were transferred in 2008.
- The settlement of the eighth EMS Annual Meeting and seventh European Conference on Applied Climatology 2008 in Amsterdam resulted in an invoice of 15,525.98€ by Copernicus GmbH for the organisation of the conference. Together with 1,597.53€ expenditures for printing, advertisement and travel support for a limited number of participants, convenors and speakers the negative balance amounted to 17,123.51€. 20,000€ were provided by the local host, KNMI, for the support of the conference.
- Membership Fees of more than 12,000.00€ had not been met by 31 December 2008, but the majority of these arrears has been paid in early 2009.

The Council noted that the organisation of the Annual Meetings is an activity that poses a considerable financial risk.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C125: 9:0:0).

7. Reports of Policy Advisory and Development Group and Project Teams (including ECOW 2009)

The PADG started its work in autumn 2008 through e-mail exchange, and held a first meeting that preceded the Council Session, on 11/12 March 2009 in Vienna. The minutes of this meeting are attached (Annex V).

The main immediate tasks of the PADG were identified:

- I. Consult with EMS Members to determine how the EMS may be of benefit to them
 - II. Help project teams to develop their plans and get the projects started
 - III. establish contacts and communication with the European meteorological infrastructure, i.e. EUMETNET and the NMSs.
- I. *Consultation with EMS Member organisations*: two different types of questionnaires are being developed: one that is aimed at the presidents, directors and contact points of Member Societies and Associate Members, and one that aims to get response from individual members of Member organisations.

The former questionnaire is near completion and will be distributed within the next month, the later is under development and it is envisaged to make it accessible and answerable on the website.

It is hoped that the answers will provide guidance for the PADG and thus to the EMS at large as to the services and actions to be instigated and/or intensified.

It was proposed that a questionnaire tailored to the exhibitors and their needs is developed or the existing one adapted.

It was also proposed that a questionnaire tailored to Associate Members and their needs is developed or the existing one adapted.

These proposals will be considered for further work; the current questionnaire will still be distributed to both, Member Societies and Associate Members, to not delay the process.

- II. *Project Teams*: The issues on which the Project Teams for communication, professional practices and education will concentrate initially, have been discussed and agreed with the leaders of the respective team (Annex V); draft plans will be prepared until end of April and end of May respectively.
- III. *EUMETNET*: No formal relationship with EUMETNET exists at present; efforts to establish communication between the two organisations have been considered. A specific action would be EMS Associate Membership of EUMETNET, that would encompass the visibility of EUMETNET as sponsor of the EMS Annual Meeting. This approach was highly recommended by Council.

Other items:

Media activities and the necessary structure have been considered by the PADG.

It is proposed that a Media Team be established, with the following tasks:

- a. Organise the Media Session at the EMS Annual Meeting
- b. Ensure established and new links with professional associations
- c. Draft a proposal on a project to further develop the Media activities of the EMS.

No immediate actions are proposed on the establishment of a *EU liaison* currently.

The Council thanked the PADG for their effective work and preparation of the Council discussions and decisions.

The Council unanimously approved the membership of the Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG):

Claude Pastre
Rolf Philipona
Heleen ter Pelkwijk
Zoltan Dunkel
Joanna Wibig
Fritz Neuwirth
Martina Junge (ex officio)

The Council unanimously approved the establishment of a Media Team with the following tasks:

- a. organise the Media Session at the Annual Meeting
- b. Ensure established and new links with professional associations
- c. to draft a proposal on a project to further develop the Media activities of the EMS.

The Media Team consists of T. Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia) and G. Fleming (Met Eirann).

EWOC 2009:

At present 45 abstracts have been submitted to the EWOC; this number will be sufficient to populate the conference programme with presentations. However, 50 paying participants would be the critical number to ensure a healthy budget of the conference. A final decision whether to hold the EWOC 2009 conference will be taken in early April.

Financial support of up to 2000 Euro, depending on the needs, is requested from the EMS.

The Council approved that funds up to this amount would be made available, should they become necessary (9:0:0).

8. EMS Annual Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings reported on the activities of the Committee, and presented proposals and recommendations (**Annex VI**).

a. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM, Toulouse

The programme and budget were presented. The approval of the budget includes the decision that registration fees for the EMS/ECAM2009 are kept constant as in the preceding three years.

The Council will consider increasing these fees for future conferences at the Council Session in autumn, including the option of a larger difference between registration fees for members and those for non-members.

b. Joint Meeting RMetS – EMS – African Met Soc

The Council agreed to support a joint meeting with the Royal Meteorological Society: African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) - Evaluating climate processes and their human dimension in West Africa, on 21 October 2009 in London.

Funds for two Young Scientist Travel Awards (300€ each) are provided. The Award Committee will be asked to evaluate applications; procedures will be co-ordinated with the Royal Meteorological Society, that will fund the same number of awards.

The winners of the awards will be asked for a short conference report.

9. Awards

On behalf of the Chair of the Awards Committee the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Committee since the last Council session.

a. Silver Medal Award 2009

It was clarified that in 2009 exactly one Silver Medal will be awarded. The vote was taken by secret ballot. It was agreed to be taken by elimination.

Laureate 2009:

The EMS Council decided to award the EMS Silver Medal 2009 to Lennart Bengtsson. (C126)

Re-consideration of nominations

It was proposed by the Awards Committee that nominations are to be re-considered in the years following the nomination should the nominees not be selected for the award in the year of the nomination.

This approach was considered unpractical by the Council . Questions raised were

- whether a society having made a proposal one year would be allowed to make another proposal in the following year
- if the societies and associate members should be informed about the list of existing proposals
- whether the list of nominations may become longer from year to year.

The council agreed that nominations should simply be resubmitted in the following year.

b. Media Awards: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the EMS Outreach & Communication Award, and the membership of the select committees for all three Media Awards (EMS Broadcast Meteorologist, EMS TV Weather Forecast and EMS Outreach & Communication) were proposed (**Annex VIII**).

The EMS Council approved the Terms of Reference for the EMS Outreach & Communication Award (C127: 9:0:0).

The membership of the Media Award select committees was endorsed unanimously.

10. Membership

The Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University, has applied for EMS Associate Membership (**Annex IX**).

This EMS Council welcomed the Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University, as new EMS Associate Member (Resolution C128: 8:0:1).

The Department of Hydrology and Climatology is the first education and research institute that applied for Associate Membership, and the general view was, that this is a positive development – though there were some concerns given the large number of such institutions in Europe compared to the number of national societies.

In the long term, mention of the eligibility for Associate Membership of such institutions should explicitly be made in the EMS constitution.

The president reported that EUMETNET is considering Associate Membership . It was proposed that EUMETNET should be offered a permanent observer status. This proposal was welcome by Council.

11. Composition of Council and Council bodies

a. Council Composition

Proposal for the term 2009 - 2011

A representative of one Member Society will have to be elected to the EMS Council at the General Assembly in September 2009.

Efforts should be made to ensure a broad geographical representation throughout Europe, i.e. a society from the Northeast or North of Europe should ideally be approached. The Executive Secretary and the President will approach respective Members.

Election 2010

In 2010 five representatives of Member Societies will have to be elected by the General Assembly. The Council agreed to propose to the General Assembly that in 2010 two representatives are elected for a **one-year-term**, to ensure a return to the intended rotation system.

b. General considerations

Various issues, which may require a change of the constitution, were considered:

- the president should automatically be a member of the Council
- introduction of a president-elect office, to ensure continuity for both the EMS and the person taking office
- is the number of vice-presidents justified for a society of the size of the EMS?
- should the current institutional distinction between Member Societies and Associate Members progressively be weakened, and be abandoned eventually?

Many aspects on each of these issues were considered and the PADG is asked to develop a proposal how to proceed on these issues.

12. Any Other Business

- The SMF together with Météo-France is organising a session on Sharing Knowledge in Atmospheric and Climatic Sciences - the role of libraries, publications, associations and learned societies at the age of internet, at the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM, and invites all EMS Members to participate in and contribute to this session.
- On initiative of the SMF, one of the exhibition booths at the EMS&ECAM will be dedicated to the Society Members of the EMS, providing to all the opportunity to display information material on their respective activities. The SMF will staff the booth during the major part of the week; support from other societies is welcome.
- HMS: it was proposed that the EMS should try to get more involved with the IPCC process; discussion of the Council made it clear, that the resources of the EMS limit any major activity in that direction.
- AME: the 6th Symposium on Meteorology and Geophysics of APMG & 10th Portuguese-Spanish Meeting on Meteorology Natural Disasters - A Challenge for Humanity 16–18 March 2009, Aldeia dos Capuchos.
For the joint symposium in 2010 Marocco is considered as venue.
- On 1 March 2009, AME held general elections for the AME Council: six new members have been elected to the Council, while six out of twelve members have been re-elected. José Antonio Maldonado continues as AME President while Angel Luís Aldana, Francisco Pérez and Fernando Aguado serve as Vicepresident, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.
- The Royal Meteorological Society has elected its first female president, J. Slingo.
- Mechanisms to review staff salary are not in place and need to be discussed at the 21st Council Session.

13. Next Council Session

The 21st session of the EMS Council will convene in Toulouse, France, on 27 September 2009.

Martina Junge
30 April 2009

ANNEX A: Resolutions 20th Session of the EMS Council

C125 Approval Report of Treasurer

C126 EMS Silver Medal Laureate 2009

C127 Terms of Reference Outreach & Communications Award

C128 Associate Membership Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University

Resolution C125

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C126

The EMS Silver Medal 2009 is awarded to Lennart Bengtsson, Sweden.

Resolution C127

This EMS Council approves the Terms of Reference of the EMS Outreach & Communication Award.

Resolution C128

This EMS Council welcomes the Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University. It will be part of the group of education and research institutions.