

21st EMS Council Session

27 September 2009

Toulouse, France

Minutes

Approved by the 22nd Council Session, 18 March 2010

Participants: (*voting councillors underlined*)

Fritz Neuwirth *Chair (OeGM Austria, EMS President)*

Gerhard Steinhorst *(DMG Germany, EMS Vice President and Treasurer)*

Joanna Wibiq *(PTG, Poland, EMS Vice President)*

Claude Pastre *(SMF, France)*

Rolf Philipona *(SGM, Switzerland)*

Michael Petrakis *(HMS, Greece)*

Zoltan Dunkel *(MMT, Hungary)*

Fernando Aguado *(AME, Spain)*

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (EMS Media Team)

Tomas Halenka (EMS Educations Project Team)

Christophe Billard (EMS Project Team Professional Practices)

Dominique Marbouty (ECMWF, permanent observer), from 11:30

8 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

Duration of meeting: 27 September 2009, 9:30 – 13:00

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President welcomed all participants to the 21st Session of the EMS Council and thanked all for being available at such an early hour on a Sunday morning.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 20th Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 20th session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (Annex XVIII).

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session and also the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council. (Annex II).

He emphasized that the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IF), is conceptualised as a platform for exchange on common issues and challenges; it is not intended to create a legal body.

The Council did agree to foresee funds in the budget to support EMS Member Societies that would like to send a representative to the first meeting of the IF in January 2010, but lack sufficient means to support attendance. Details were agreed under the agenda item 10. Budget 2010.

Printed copies of the EMS Annual Report 2008 were available at the meeting.

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, and support for EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

The ems-message No.6 was published three days before the meeting.

For the publication of conference papers from the EMS/ECAM 2009 in the Open Access journal *Advances in Science and Research*, www.advancesinscience.net/volumes.htm, support for guest editors (session convenors) has been agreed (after consultation with the chair of the communications project team and the treasurer):

- online manuscript submission and review process monitoring: the page charges increase from 20€ per page to 25€ per page.

The council approved the use of improved tools for the submission and review process; however the envisioned budget should not be increased compared to 2009 (6000€).

It has now been announced to authors of the EMS&ECAM 2009 that page charges for four pages of the first 30 papers submitted are waived, and funded by EMS.

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 report of the auditor on the financial accounts 2008 certifies that the accounting is consistent with the legal requirements and the requirements of the EMS constitution and that the balance was compiled in accordance with the legal and constitutional requirements. No significant shortcomings have been noted.

- The Council took note of the Audit Report of the accounts for 2008. The Audit report was subsequently presented to the EMS General Assembly for approval.

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2009

The forecast of the financial accounts for 2009 assumes that the balance will be negative, with a decrease of more than 10 000€, compared to the end of 2008.

It was stressed again, that the organisation of Annual Meetings constitutes a considerable financial risk. The Treasurer suggested that the Council may consider raising registration fees for future meetings.

The funds available will be employed for new activities that spring from the work of the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

Audit 2009

The Council decided to propose to the EMS General Assembly to commission a new auditor for the accounts 2009: Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany. In order to separate the accounting and advise from the actual auditing, a different tax advisor is commissioned with the compilation of income-expenditure balance, and also the calculations of employment related payments. The tax advisor is Bernd Hoffmann, Berlin.

Employment

The Council asked the President and the Treasurer to investigate appropriate procedures for salary revisions and to present a proposal at the next Council Session in spring.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C129: 8:0:0).

7. Reports Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) and Project Teams

A. PADG

The chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group, Claude Pastre, provided a report of the work of the PADG since the last Council Session (Annex V), that focussed on the results and first conclusions from the questionnaire feedback from Members.

The PADG will meet on 29 September 2009 in Toulouse. Three tasks are on the agenda:

- a) Prepare a proposal for a modification of the EMS Constitution. The objective is to have this proposal ready for the Council in Spring 2010 so that it could be approved by the General Assembly in Autumn 2010.
- b) Analyse in detail the results of the questionnaire and propose a list of actions.
- c) Work with the Project Managers to further progress their activities

Membership of the PADG:

Claude Pastre is resigning as SMF representative on the EMS Council and also as chair of the PADG.

The EMS Council welcomes the membership of Manuel Palomares (AME, Spain) in the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

The EMS Council elects Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK), as Chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group for a two-year term until autumn 2011. (C130: 8:0:0)

B. Education Project Team: Tomas Halenka presented the plans for Education Projects (Annex VI).

After discussion of the main proposals it was agreed that the priority should be put on developing a portal on the emetsoc site that gives access to good examples and the vast material that is available for all educational levels. The language problem will continue to exist, but successful strategies and approaches can be made more visible.

In order to develop the ECTOM data base, a COST proposal is considered, as COST is now open for multidisciplinary actions.

It was also discussed, whether the EMS should be leading a FP7 (or FP 8) proposal, but the general opinion was, that with the resources of the EMS and the national societies this is not

possible, and it is not the role of the EMS to be directly involved in research. Where proposals on the relation of science and society are touched, EMS could consider being a small part.

C. Communication Project Team: The plan of the CPT was presented by the Executive Secretary (Annex VII).

A number of actions proposed in the plan such as inviting convenors of the Annual Meeting to provide summary reports of their session, and the development of a network of national communication contact points had already been started or completed by the time of the Council Session.

It was suggested to create a calendar on the emetsoc site, that contains the events of national societies or other organisations, that would ideally be interactive and accessible for all interested to log an entry.

D. Professional Practices Project Team: Christophe Billard presented the plan for activities on Professional Practices (Annex VIII).

It was discussed whether the approach for the survey of operational and ongoing training should be rather global than focussed on European resources, but it was felt that the latter would be too ambitious.

E. Media Team: Tanja Cegnar presented the plan for Media activities (Annex IX).

The proposal to organise a training workshop for climatologists involved with the media only occasionally, was highly appreciated by the council.

The workshop would take part on the premises of EARS, Slovenia, and be a joint undertaking of the EMS and the Department of Public Relations of the ministry of Slovenia. Participants will have to cover their own travel expenses; the EMS will provide the funds for the technical equipment for the workshop, advertise the workshop and collect the applications.

All plans of the project teams were subsequently further discussed in the meeting of the PADG in Toulouse, with regard to their practical implementation.

The President thanked all leaders of the project teams for their activities and development of plans for future actions.

8. EMS Meetings

EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM)

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings reported on the activities of the CoM, the status of preparations for the EMS Annual Meetings 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, proposals and recommendations of the Committee (Annex X).

The EMS Council welcomes that Heleen ter Pelkwijk continues as active member of the Committee on Meetings.

The EMS Council welcomes the membership of Zoltan Dunkel, MMT, Hungary on the Committee on Meetings for a one year term until autumn 2010.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2010, Zurich, Switzerland

The EMS Council agreed to the proposed membership of the Programme and Science Committee (PSC) for the EMS & ECAC 2010, and approved the theme of the conference.

The budget options of the EMS & ECAC 2010, EMS&ECAM 2011 and EMS&ECAC 2012 were considered, also in light of the report of the treasurer (agenda item 6).

It was agreed that a rise in registration fees should be modest, and the benefit from the EMS Membership should be reflected.

The EMS Council decided that registration fees from 2010 on are increased

- by 10€ for members of Member organisations (this also applies to the Associate Members)
- by 20€ for non-members

For the EMS & ECAC 2010 no free transport passes will be provided for participants as the location is centrally located in Zurich.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM/ECAC 2011 and 2012

The Council noted the preparations for the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC/ECAM 2011 and 2012. The Council approved the budget of the EMS & ECAM 2011.

Conference on Climate Change in collaboration with EGU

The EMS Council requests the Committee and the Secretariat to continue negotiations with the EGU and Copernicus GmbH to organise a conference on Climate Change in 2010 on the basis of equal partnership. This implies that the financial risk is equally shared between the three organising partners.

9. Awards

9.1 Report of the Awards Committee

The Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Awards Committee since the last Council session, including the awards that have been made in 2009 and the proposal for Awards to be announced in 2010 and the related budget (Annex XI).

The Council approved the list of conferences for which EMS Young Scientist Travel Awards shall be announced in 2010.

The Council is very happy with the work of the committee and appreciates that all members are prepared to continue on the committee.

The EMS Council approves the membership of the Awards Committee:

Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Italy)
Sarah Jones (DMG, Germany; RMetS United Kingdom)
Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT)
Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland)
Jenni Rauhala (FMI, Finland)

and elects Dario Giaiotti, UMFVG, Italy, as Chair of the Awards Committee for a two-year term until autumn 2011. (C131: 8:0:0)

9. 2 Media Awards

Based on the problems the select committee for the EMS Outreach & Communication Award faced (Annex XII), the council discussed whether two awards should be open, one honoring the efforts of institutions, one honoring individual achievements and ideas. As it was questioned whether this could always be clearly distinguished, the council decided that also for future awards the select committee will be given the flexibility to assign awards in different categories, based on the proposals that are received.

9. 3 European Photo Competition

The Spanish Meteorological Association (AME) submitted a proposal that the EMS announce a photo competition (Annex XIII).

This proposal was highly appreciated by the council and approved.

Some technical issues as file size were shortly discussed and put to the organisers and the Executive Secretary to be dealt with.

The terms & conditions have slightly been revised to improve clarity. The announcement is now available at

http://www.emetsoc.org/awards/documents/EMS_EUROPHOTOMETEO_announcement.pdf

10. Budget 2010

The Treasurer presented the proposal for the budget of the EMS in the financial year 2010 (Annex XIV).

This budget includes:

- the assumption that registration fees for the Annual Meetings are increased from 2010 and no transport pass be provided (agenda item 8)
- the approval of the budget for the Young Scientist Award, Young Scientist Travel Awards, and Media Awards (agenda item 9a), and
- the approval of the Europhotometeo competition EPM`09 (agenda item 9c 3500€; Awards and EPM`09 together: 15000€)
- the decision that funds for publications are kept at the same level as in 2009 (agenda item 4): 6000€
- the provision of funds for the support of EMS Member societies to attend the first meeting of the International Forum in January 2010 (agenda item 3): collaboration 2000€
- funds are provided for the training workshop organised by the Media Team (agenda item 7): Training workshop: 2000€

The Council approved the budget as provided in Annex XIV (C132: 8:0:0).

11. Membership

An application for Associate Membership was received from the private service provider AWS Convergence Technologies, Inc., also known as WeatherBug Professional, Germantown, MD, USA. (Annex XV).

This EMS Council welcomed WeatherBug Professional as a new EMS Member Associate Member (Resolution C133: 8:0:0).

12. Composition of Council and Council bodies

12.1 Council Composition: proposal for the term 2009 - 2010

After this Council Session the term of Joanna Wibig (PTG – Meteorological Section, Poland) will end. On behalf of the EMS, the President expressed his gratitude for her work on the EMS Council, as EMS Vice President and as member of the Policy Development and Advisory Group; she will continue to contribute of the work of the latter.

The EMS Council noted the proposal that will be put to the EMS General Assembly on 27 September 2009 (Annex XVI). In agreement with the criteria discussed by the 20th Council, Matthias Mohr is proposed to represent NMF, Norway, on the EMS Council for the two-year term autumn 2009 – autumn 2011.

Claude Pastre is retiring from his representation of the SMF on the EMS Council; the SMF will nominate a new council representative.

The Council agreed to propose to the EMS General Assembly, that in autumn 2010 two representatives on the Council are elected for a one-year term, in order to ensure that in future three council members can be newly elected to the Council each year.

12.2 Election Vice Presidents 2009 - 2010

The EMS Council re-elects Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as Vice President and Treasurer for the one-year term autumn 2009 – autumn 2010 (C134: 8:0:0).

The EMS Council re-elects Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as Vice President for the one-year term autumn 2009 – autumn 2010 (C135: 8:0:0).

The EMS Council elects Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland) as Vice President for the one-year term autumn 2009 – autumn 2010 (C136: 8:0:0).

13. Any Other Business

No issues were presented under this agenda item.

14. Next Council Session

The 22nd session of the EMS Council will convene in Budapest, Hungary, on 18 & 19 March 2010, on invitation from the Hungarian Meteorological Service.

Martina Junge
23 November 2009

ANNEX A: Resolutions 21st Session of the EMS Council

Resolutions:

C129 Approval Report of Treasurer

C130 Approval of Head and Membership PADG

C131 Approval of Chair and Committee Membership Awards Committee

C132 Approval of Budget 2010

C133 Approval of Associate Membership of AW Convergence Technologies
(WeatherBug Professional)

C134 Election of EMS Vice President and Treasurer

C135 Election of EMS Vice President

C136 Election of EMS Vice President

Resolution C129

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C130

The EMS Council welcomes the membership of Manuel Palomares (AME, Spain) in the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

The EMS Council elects Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK), as Chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group for a two-year term until autumn 2011.

Resolution C131

The EMS Council approves the membership of the Awards Committee:

Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Italy)

Sarah Jones (DMG, Germany; RMetS United Kingdom)

Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT)

Hans Richner (SGM, Switzerland)

Jenni Rauhala (FMI, Finland)

and elects Dario Giaiotti, UMFVG, Italy, as Chair of the Awards Committee for a two-year term until autumn 2011.

Resolution C132

This EMS Council approves the Budget 2010 (as attached).

Resolution C133

This EMS Council welcomes the WeatherBug Professional as a new EMS Member Associate Member.

Resolution C134

This EMS Council re-elects Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as EMS Vice-President and Treasurer for the term 2009 – 2010.

Resolution C135

This EMS Council re-elects Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2009 – 2010.

Resolution C136

This EMS Council elects Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2009 – 2010.