

22nd EMS Council Session

18-19 March 2010, Budapest, Hungary

Minutes of 19 April 2010
approved by the 23rd Council Session

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Fritz Neuwirth Chair (OeGM Austria, EMS President)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Zoltán Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)

Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland, EMS Vice President)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, EMS Vice President)

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

Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (EMS Media Team)

Christophe Billard (EMS Project Team Professional Practices)

László Bozó (Director OMSZ, Hungary; observer for the NMHS Associate Members)

Ernest Rudel (Director ZAMG, Austria, guest)

Heleen ter Pelkwijk (member of PADG, guest) – until Thursday, 17:00

9 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

Duration of meeting: 18 March 2010, 14:00 – 17:00

19 March 2010, 9:30 – 12:00

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President opened the 22nd Session of the EMS Council. László Bozó, the director of the Hungarian Meteorological Service, OMSZ, welcomed all participants and expressed his delight that the EMS Council was being held in Budapest. He hoped the EMS Council would have a successful meeting. The EMS President expressed his gratitude to OMSZ, and in particular its director, for inviting the EMS Council to hold this session at the OMSZ premises.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 21st Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 21st session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (Annex XIV).

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). His activities with respect to the relations of EMS with EUMETNET and to the Global Meeting One of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) were discussed under agenda items 7 and 14 respectively.

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 2010 (support for the PSC2010, communication with convenors on the session organisation, and communication with the Local Organising Committee and with Copernicus GmbH). Also support was provided for EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

It was noted that the ems-message No.8 is in preparation.

For the publication of conference papers from the EMS/ECAM 2009 in the open access journal *Advances in Science and Research (ASR)*, www.advancesinscience.net/volumes.htm, 20 papers were submitted, the number being lower than in 2008. The online support tools have been greatly appreciated by session convenors.

For the 2010 conference SGM has secured considerable funding from the Swiss Academy of Science (SCNAT) for publication of conference papers. The opportunity to publish in ASR will be publicised amongst convenors and subsequently authors of contributions will be informed.

The President added that the Executive Secretary provides him with monthly written reports about EMS activities and other important information.

6. Report of the Treasurer

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

Financial Accounts 2009

The financial situation of the EMS is healthy. The balance as at 31 December 2009 has increased by 7,936.80€ compared to 31 December 2008. It was stressed, that the organisation of Annual Meetings constitutes a considerable financial risk. The funds available will be employed for new activities that spring from the work of the Project Teams and the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

A detailed list of membership fee payments by each Member Society and Associate Member will be provided for future spring Council Sessions.

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2010

The Executive Secretary was not present for this part of the discussion.

Notes by the EMS President:

Following the decision of the last Council, the Treasurer presented a proposal to increase the salary of the Executive Secretary on the basis of comparable salaries in the system of the Civil Servants in Germany. In recognising the excellent performance of the Executive Secretary and taking into account that the salary has not been changed for some years, the EMS

Council unanimously decided to amend the EMS Budget and increase the budget item Salary Executive Secretary from 56,600€ to 63,400€ (C137:9:0:0)

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C138: 9:0:0).

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

The Minutes of the second PADG meeting, held on 30 September 2009 in Toulouse were provided to the Council (Annex V).

A third meeting of the PADG was held on 17 and 18 March 2010 in Budapest, directly preceding the EMS Council Session.

Actions in response to membership questionnaire

The actions that were planned in response to the membership questionnaire have been completed, with the exception of those that specifically support the Associate Members. However, the job site on emetsoc.org has been developed, and more Associate Members will be made aware of this opportunity. The development of the website is ongoing and better visibility for Associate Members is taken into account by the website development group. No action for “technical tourism” could be identified presently.

EUMETNET-EMS relations

The EUMETNET Council rejected the proposal that it becomes an EMS Associate Member mainly on financial grounds. As the collaboration with EUMETNET is considered an important issue by the EMS, the intention now is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EUMETNET as a basis for collaboration. The MoU must reflect the profile and interests of the NMHSs and the EMS. A draft will be developed by the EMS President with the support of the chair of the PADG.

Involvement of EMS Member Societies at the EMS Annual Meetings Exhibition

The experience of the booth of Member Societies at the recent EMS Annual Meeting in Toulouse was not considered satisfactory. It was decided that:

- A booth for EMS and Member Societies should be provided.
- No commitment from individuals to be at the booth should be expected; the booth will simply serve as point of information and to provide material about EMS and the Member Societies and Associates.
- A small reception at the booth should be organised, if possible, by the Executive Secretary; staffing of the booth for one hour must then be organised.

Promotion of the EMS amongst manufacturers in the meteorological field

Concern has been expressed about the benefits Associate Members get from their EMS membership. One benefit can arise from sessions at the Annual Meeting that are of interest to manufacturers (e.g. measurement and instrumentation session has been re-included in the programme in recent years); the job site may also become of interest. Further actions will be discussed with the Committee on Meetings.

Support for small Member Societies to participate in the EMS Council

For small societies it may be difficult to raise the travel funds for a councillor to participate in Council sessions, thus a more active participation in the EMS work is inhibited. Consequently, the PADG suggested to Council that the EMS should foresee a partial cover of travel expenses for the participation in the spring meeting of the Council(i.e. the costs for a flight or train ticket at the lowest possible price). A separate item should be introduced in the budget. Such support will only be offered should a society have to decline the nomination of a Council representative for the lack of sufficient funds.

Media Team Project Team

The activities of the Media Team consisted of the production of the CD from the last Media session at the Annual Meeting, the preparation of the Media Award Announcements for 2010, the proposal for a code of ethics (Agenda item 13) and the preparation of the Media Workshop on communication for climatologists.

The Workshop was cancelled due to there being only four registrations. Initially there was no intention of arranging another such workshop. However, the PADG was convinced that this is a very useful project and efforts should be made to give this project another opportunity. The Media Team was strongly encouraged by Council to consider another attempt. It was agreed that:

- If more funds than originally foreseen appear to be necessary, the Media Team should make a case for it and come back to the EMS Council.
- The NMHSs should be explicitly targeted.
- EMS Members should be asked which would be the most convenient period for such a workshop.
- EUMETNET-ECSN should be approached to assess their interest in such a workshop explored and seek support for its promotion.
- Directors of Associate Members (NMHSs) should be approached directly to promote the workshop amongst their staff.

Communication Project Team

It appears there is no further need for a communications project team, as the main communication is happening through the website and the *ems-message*. The PADG does suggest disbanding the project team and creating an editorial board that will support the Executive Secretary in the development of the website and the editing of the *ems-message*. Draft Terms of Reference for such an editorial board will be developed. Currently the board has the following members: Claude Pastre, Bob Riddaway, Fritz Neuwirth, Executive Secretary (ex officio).

Professional Practices Project Team

The initiatives to build a professional practice team were so far not successful. In principle the survey of existing schemes of operational and ongoing training could be launched within the coming weeks; however a second person on the team appears necessary. A collaboration with the Education Project Team appears sensible, as the approach for the survey is analogous to the ECTOM concept, and education and professional practices both deal with training opportunities.

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

Involvement of the EMS in IPCC process

It was suggested that the EMS should become involved in the IPCC process, and give public support to the science of climate change.

Michael Petrakis will prepare a paper on this issue, including proposed actions, for the 23rd Council Session.

8. EMS Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on its activities, the status of preparations for the EMS Annual Meetings in 2010 and 2011 (Annex VI).

Outcome EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2009

The financial outcome of the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2009 in Toulouse was positive with about 20 000€ surplus. However, it must be noted that a small reduction in the number of participants could have led to a less favourable result.

The President thanked Météo-France and SMF for their work in the organization of the EMS & ECAM 2009 that resulted in a very interesting meeting and a positive outcome.

Budget EMS & ECAC 2010

The chair of the CoM stressed, that the budget is based on the assumption that all convenors pay registration fees (currently 89 convenors are listed).

Actions taken by the CoM in response to the membership questionnaire:

- CoM has not met since the last Council meeting. However, a first analysis of Annual Meeting registrations revealed that the host country accounts for a large portion of participants; also the financial crisis is reflected in these numbers (for example participation from the UK, and in particular the MetOffice, UK, was considerably down from 2008).
- Feedback from the questionnaire with regard to support for meetings arranged by Member Societies has been analyzed and a number of actions will be proposed. The intention is to invite Member Societies to a side meeting in Zürich, where such actions could be discussed. One action may be to provide financial support for participants, but strictly on the basis that the Member Society provides support on a matching level (one example is the support for the AMMA meeting together with the RMetS in 2009).
- Support and sponsorship should be considered for special topic meetings, under the condition that the lead for such meetings is taken by a Member Society or interest grouping.

It should be noted that whatever action is taken or level of support is given, it will in most cases involve the provision of financial funds.

EMS Annual Meeting 2013

Bob Riddaway, on behalf of the RMetS, invited the EMS to discuss with the RMetS the possibility of the Annual Meeting in 2013 being held in the UK. 2013 will be the 20th anniversary of the first ECAM, that was held in 1993 in Oxford, UK. The EMS Annual Meeting would be combined with the RMetS biennial meeting. The President thanked Bob Riddaway for the offer; the Council greatly welcomed this invitation.

9. Awards

9. 1 Report of the Awards Committee

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

The efforts of SGM to secure additional funds for the participation of young scientists in the EMS&ECAC 2010 have been highly appreciated.

The geographical distribution of applicants and awardees of YSTAs was noted with interest. It is not clear whether insufficient distribution of information on available awards is the reason for the lack of applications from some countries. Inquiries with individual Member Societies as to the possible causes will be made. The statistics will be made publicly available.

9. 2 Silver Medal Award 2010

It was reiterated that each year only one Silver Medal should be awarded. The vote was taken by secret ballot.

Laureate 2010:

The EMS Council decided to award the EMS Silver Medal 2010 to Dr. David Burridge (C139).

It was agreed that organisations with which the EMS has formal collaborations (WMO, AMS, ESSL) will in future also be invited to nominate candidates.

9. 3 Media Awards

Proposals for the membership of the Media Award selection committees were provided (Annex VIII).

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

9. 4 European Photo Competition

A report on the Europhotometeo '09 by the Organising Committee was provided to Council (Annex IX) and presented by Fernando Aguado.

The Council highly appreciated this competition and expressed its thanks to the organising committee and to AME as the initiator of the contest.

The Council considered repeating the contest with a biennial cycle that might include other kinds of art. A decision will be taken at the 23rd Session of Council in September 2010.

10. Membership

No application for Membership or Associate Membership had been received since the last Council Session.

11. Composition of Council and Council bodies

SMF has nominated Jean-Pierre Chalon to succeed Claude Pastre as representative on the EMS Council.

Council Composition: proposal for the term 2010 - 2012

Following the decision of the 11th EMS General Assembly to elect two council members for one year and three council members for two years at the 12th EMS General Assembly in autumn 2010, a preliminary proposal was presented to Council by the EMS President (Annex X).

- A proposal for a one-year term: Fritz Neuwirth, ÖGM, Austria
- Two proposals for two-year terms: SMS, Slovakia and SMR, Romania; these societies have already agreed to nominate representatives.

One proposal for a one-year term and one proposal for a two-year term still need to be made. An option that would ensure continuity would be to elect one of the current councillors for a one-year term. This option is seen by the Council as the most pragmatic one. Taking into account geographical distribution, a Member Society from the southern part of Europe should be approached to nominate a representative for a two-year term.

The history of earlier Council representation is available at http://www.emetsoc.org/organisation/documents/Past_Council_Composition.pdf

Gender Balance

The current Council consists exclusively of male representatives. Though the Member Societies are autonomous in their decision to nominate a Council representative, the Council would welcome more nominations of female representatives. The EMS President will write a letter to Member Societies to that effect.

12. Code of Ethics

A proposal for a code of ethics was presented by the Media Team (Annex XI) and discussed by the PADG.

The code of ethics is not meant to be a code of conduct to be imposed on individuals, but as guidelines on how to communicate with the general public and not leave room for misinterpretation, and how to be clear about uncertainties associated with any assessments. The text is intended to be used to get feedback from societies, share experience, and collect information on existing codes of ethics.

It is suggested that:

- the statement should be made available to Members of the EMS.
- the Members be asked for their experience and whether a code of ethics exists in their society or country.
- the Professional Practices Team, in collaboration with the Media Team, will be responsible for instigating this discussion.
- The results will be made available on the internet.

The Professional Practices and Media Teams will decide whether the code of ethics presented to the Council will be made available on the Internet.

The aim is to exchange experience, and support those organisations that have no such code, to develop appropriate guidelines (Best Practice approach).

13. Revision of constitution

A revised version of the EMS constitution was provided to Council.
The PADG suggested two further changes:

The Vice President and the Treasurer should each be elected for a three year term, to ensure stability in the EMS work. Explicit mention of the possibility for re-election after three years is not made, but is not excluded. This concerns paragraphs 5.3.3 (Vice Presidents) and 5.3.6 (Treasurer).

If the Treasurer is a Council representative on a rotational basis, the planning for re-election to the Council should take into account a renewed council membership.

Additionally it was discussed that:

in paragraph 5.3.4. the formulation “The President can act as a representative ...” is to be replaced by “The President acts as representative ...”.

The revised proposal of the EMS constitution to be presented to the 12th General Assembly is attached in Annex XII.

The PADG also suggested that the Vice President should be assigned specific responsibilities. In the current situation it would be appropriate that the Vice President acts as chair of the PADG.

14. International Forum of Meteorological Societies

The president reported on the First Global Meeting (GM1) of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) (Annex XIII).

The president stressed that the membership is not associated with any membership fees, and has no legal implications as the IFMS will not become a legal body. Activities and attendance of meetings, however, will incur expenditures.

Currently the EMS President is member of the IFMS Steering Committee for a two-year term. The chair of the Steering Committee should normally be from the society that is going to host the next Global Meeting – now Qin Dahe from the Chinese Meteorological Society, that will host the GM2 in Shanghai in October 2011.

The EMS Council decided to

- Approve membership of the EMS in the IFMS (C140)
- Support an invitation to hold the Global Meeting 3 (GM3) in the frame of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2013
- Consider a nomination for the Steering Committee after 2011

The Committee on Meetings should become involved in the planning of the IFMS GM3.

15. AOB

EUFAR:

Jean-Pierre Chalon reported on EUFAR (European Facility for Airborne Research). On the occasion of its 10th anniversary it will organise an international conference in Toulouse on 25–30 October 2010. He suggested that EUFAR be supported by EMS advertising and promoting this conference.

Weather Club

Bob Riddaway reported that the RMetS has commissioned market research to assess whether there is a demand for a weather club for members of the general public. The research showed that there is potentially a huge market in the UK for this kind of publication. The Council of the RMetS has decided to go ahead with the club. The associated magazine and website will initially only be available through subscription. If the project is successful it will help demonstrate that the society delivers public goods as part of its charitable status, and at the same time opens a new strand for the society.

16. Next Council Session

The 23rd session of the EMS Council will convene in Zürich, Switzerland, on 12 September 2010. The Council Session will have a break, and reconvene after the General Assembly to elect the Vice President and Treasurer.

Martina Junge
19 April 2010

ANNEX A: Resolutions 22nd Session of the EMS Council

Resolutions:

C137 Amendment EMS Budget 2010

C138 Approval Report of Treasurer

C139 EMS Silver Medal Laureate 2010

C140 IFMS Membership of the EMS

Resolution C137

This EMS Council decided to amend the EMS Budget 2010 and increase the budget item *Salary Executive Secretary* from 56,500€ to 63,400€.

Resolution C138

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C139

The EMS Silver Medal 2010 is awarded to Dr. David Burridge.

Resolution C140

This EMS Council approves the Membership of the EMS in the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS).