

25th EMS Council Session

11 September 2011, Berlin, Germany

Minutes of 25 October 2011

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Fritz Neuwirth (Chair (OeGM Austria, EMS President)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Constanta Boroneant (SMR, Romania)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

Olivija Morell (MeteoMak, FYR Macedonia)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, EMS Vice President)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany, EMS Treasurer)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair EMS Media Team)

Detlev Frömming (DWD, observer for the NMHSs)

Tomas Halenka (EMS Project Team Education)

Jon Malay (guest, AMS President)

Dominique Marbouty (guest)

K. Heinke Schlünzen (guest, DMG)

Andrea Oestreich (EMS)

8 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of the 25th Session

The EMS President opened the 25th Session of the EMS Council. He welcomed all participants, noting that this is the last session of the EMS Council that he has the honour to open and chair.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 24th Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 24th 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 as well as on initiatives of the EMS Bureau (Annex II).

The Council took note that attempts have been made to establish more formal relationships with EUMETNET. As a result EUMETNET has been invited to be represented on the

Programme and Science Committee for the Annual Meeting 2012 and is currently in the process of establishing a representative.

The President met with representatives of EUMETSAT (M. Pooley, V. Gärtner) at the EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference 2011 and discussed the development and intensification of the collaboration between the EMS and EUMETSAT. Both sides agreed that new initiatives could be beneficial for both organisations. Among the possible actions are advertising the EUMETSAT Conference by EMS, providing EMS YSTAs for participation of PhD students at the EUMETSAT Conference, involving EMS in the 2013 EUMETSAT Conference (that is organised together with the AMS), and distributing information about the EMS at EUMETSAT Conferences.

The EMS Council welcomed this positive development, and gave full support to what had been proposed. The President and the Executive Secretary are tasked with taking forward the initiatives in cooperation with EUMETSAT.

The President has finalised agreements with the Board of the Harry Otten Prize for Innovation in Meteorology (HOP) on the organisation of the award selection process and the award ceremony during future EMS Annual Meetings. The Council fully supported and welcomed these agreements and noted that such a measure can further increase the prestige of the Annual Meetings.

Dominique Marbouty, as member of the board of the HOP, expressed the hope that the prize will be widely advertised by EMS Member Societies.

The Annual Report 2010 of the Council to the 13th General Assembly has been published online and printed copies have been distributed to all Members and collaborating organisations.

The report of the EMS Bureau was approved by the Council (C149: 8:0:0)

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (Annex III). In particular it was noted that following the Council's decision to disband the PADG, a paper monitoring the activities and projects of EMS is now provided with the report of the secretariat.

Employment of an assistant for the EMS Office

Following the provision of funds to employ additional staff to support the EMS Executive Secretary in the daily administration of the EMS activities, Andrea Oestreich is employed for 8h/week; the contract is for two years initially.

Website development

A photo gallery for the Europhotometeo 2012 competition has been implemented on the website. Also a content management system has been installed and the new structure, developed by the editorial board and approved by the Council, has been implemented. Content revision is currently ongoing. The photo gallery will be imported into the structure before the start of the photo competition.

Training workshops

In the light of the successful collaboration with Eumetcal on the organisation of the workshop for forecasters as a side meeting of the EMS Annual Meeting, it appears worthwhile investigating whether collaboration with Eumetcal can be intensified with respect to education projects.

6. Report of the Treasurer

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

Financial Accounts 2010

The financial accounts were presented at the 24th Council Session, March 2011. The balance has increased by 22,467.61€ from December 2009 to December 2010, due to a surplus from the EMS Annual Meeting 2010. This is a healthy situation.

The revenue and expenses statement of the financial accounts 2010 has been compiled by the tax advisor B. Hoffmann, Berlin. The revenue from the EMS Annual Meeting license fee is subject to VAT (7%).

Audit of the revenue and expenses 2010

The financial accounts 2010 have been audited by C. Kucklick, Berlin. The audit report certifies that the revenue and expenses statement complies with the legal requirements as well as additional rules fixed in the constitution of the EMS. Payments made by the EMS are supported by invoices or other vouchers related to the association's purpose.

Free Reserves (Freie Rücklagen)

The Council decided to allocate 25,220.00 Euro of the income-expenditure result 2010 to the Free Reserve (Freie Rücklage). (C150: 8:0:0)

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2011

The forecast for the accounts at the end of 2011 was noted by the Council. It was stressed that the final result depends to a large extent on the outcome of the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011 (i.e. the final number of participants that is currently estimated at 650). The strong financial support of DWD is nonetheless important for the outcome of the Annual Meeting and is highly appreciated.

The decision of the tax authorities on payment of taxes on the license fee income from the EMS Annual Meeting 2010 is still pending; the amount is included in the forecast as expected expenditure (Annex B).

Funds that are not required for the daily running of the EMS will be transferred to a daily account to take advantage of interest paid. Details will be agreed between the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C151: 8:0:0).

7. EMS Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee and summarized issues discussed at the recent CoM meeting. (Annex V).

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011

850 abstracts were submitted for the EMS & ECAM in Berlin, again a growth compared to the Annual Meeting 2010. The Programme and Science Committee (PSC) met on 24 May 2011 in Berlin to decide on the overall scheduling of the session programme; a fifth parallel session was scheduled to accommodate more oral presentations.

The collaboration with DWD in the preparation of the meeting was excellent; the strong financial support of DWD is highly appreciated and the EMS Council thanked DWD for this strong commitment to the conference.

The Council took note of the CoM's and PSC's view that moderate growth of the conference should be accommodated through additional parallel sessions.

The success of the forecasters' workshop that was organized in collaboration with and financially supported by Eumetcal was noted; this constitutes an excellent example of good collaboration with a project of EUMETNET. Council thanked Eumetcal for the generous financial support of the forecasters' workshop that allowed a considerable reduction of participant fees. The workshop was highly successful.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2012

The Committee on Meetings had reviewed the budget of the EMS&ECAC 2012, and no further changes were proposed.

The Council approves the proposal for the membership of the PSC, which had followed the approach taken by the Council in the past:

Horst Böttger (EMS CoM, Chair)
Jean Pailleux (EMS CoM – chair NWP PG)
Sylvain Joffre (EMS CoM – chair ASI PG)
Hans Richner (EMS CoM)
Heleen ter Pelkwijk (EMS CoM)
Olivija Morell (EMS CoM)
Martina Junge (EMS)
Tanja Cegnar (ARSO, Slovenia – chair CE PG)
Joanna Wibig (PTG, Poland)
Krzysztof Fortuniak (University of Łódź)
Miroslaw Miętus (IMGW, Poland)
Paul Hardaker (RMetS, UK)
Ewen McCallum (UK Met Office)
Aryan van Engelen (KNMI, ECSN – chair ECAC PG)
Ben Dieterink (HMEI)
EUMETNET
Dennis Schulze (PRIMET)
Jochen Grandell (EUMETSAT)
Erik Andersson (ECWMF)
Pierre-Philippe Matthieu (ESA)
Haleh Kootval (WMO)

The theme agreed for the conference is “European climate capabilities – user needs and communication with stake holders”.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2013

On the basis of a report of the Executive Secretary on the visit to the proposed venue for the EMS&ECAM2013 in Reading, the CoM informed Council that, despite some issues still to be addressed concerning the provision of space for a poster area and the exhibition, the venue was judged appropriate to accommodate the EMS Annual Meeting. The venue would also accommodate a fifth parallel session, if required.

Future locations for EMS Annual Meetings

Following a request from the Council, the CoM had asked for proposals to host the EMS Annual Meeting 2014. Two proposals were submitted, from the Czech Meteorological Society and the newly-founded Bulgarian Meteorological Society (see Annex II and III of the CoM report).

Both proposals are acceptable. However, the CoM expressed a preference for Prague as the location of the 2014 event, with the most suitable venue being the Prague Conference Centre (PCC). This view is also supported by ECSN, the co-organiser of the 2014 EMS&ECAC.

Two issues are connected with the proposal:

- The PCC is currently not available in the preferred week (second week of September) and would thus likely interfere with the ECMWF Annual Seminar.
- The proposal includes a bid by a company (professional congress organizer – PCO) to organize the entire conference, including managing abstract submission and the local organization of the event. The PCO for the EMS Annual Meetings since 2004 has been Copernicus and the CoM recommends that this collaboration be continued and not be jeopardized for a one-off change.

The Council assumed that the issue of the timing can be resolved.

As the services provided by Copernicus in the past were satisfactory, the Council sees no need to change the PCO for one event. Consequently Council decided that Copernicus should remain the organiser of the conference. As there may be advantages to involve a local organiser (sponsoring), the Executive Secretary is tasked with investigating with Copernicus how a collaboration of Copernicus with the local team can be arranged.

Results about both issues should be communicated back to the Council at the next session along with a definite proposal.

Abstract processing fees

The CoM made a proposal to the Council to introduce abstract processing fees for the handling of abstract submission at EMS Annual Conferences; these would not be refundable. The aim is to reduce the large number of no-shows and in particular the number of empty poster boards (ca 20%) at the conference. In addition this can create additional income for the conference.

The Council agreed to introduce an abstract processing fee of 30Euro from the 2012 EMS Annual Meeting onwards. Registration fees for 2012 will be kept at the same level as in 2011.

Support for meetings of Member Societies

Progress has been made in defining possible support measures for conferences organized by Member Societies, and this had been taken up by a number of societies. The responsibility to respond to requests is in the hands of the EMS Bureau.

The President thanked the Chair of the CoM, Horst Böttger, for his excellent work and concluded that the activities of the committee are in good hands.

8. 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 (Annex VI).

The Council was informed at its 24th Session that Dario Gaiotti and Hans Richner will step down from the committee this autumn, and that Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Italy) and Gudrun Nína Petersen (FIV, Iceland) had agreed to contribute as members to the committee as replacements. Fulvio Stel was appointed as affiliated member of the Awards Committee with immediate effect; it was expected that he will then be elected as member of the committee at the 25th Session of Council. Since the 24th Session of Council an additional nomination for the Awards Committee was received from the AME, Spain: Carlos Yagüe.

Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT) volunteered to become the chair of the Awards Committee and this had been appreciated and welcome by the Council. The election of the chair is for a term of two years.

The Council thanked both the chair, Dario Giaiotti, and the long-term member, Hans Richner, for their commitment to this committee which is at the heart of the objectives of the EMS. It had been well recognised that the committee silently but effectively has evaluated many proposals and that under the stewardship of Dario Giaiotti the working procedures have been further developed and the work of the committee become very effective. The Council expressed its appreciation to both and wished them all the best for their future.

Election of Chair Awards Committee

The EMS Council elected Johannes Schmetz, EUMETSAT, as Chair of the Awards Committee for a two-year term until autumn 2013. (C152: 8:0:0)

The Council approves the following membership of the Awards committee effective from September 2011:

Johannes Schmetz (Chair; EUMETSAT)
Sarah Jones (DMG, Germany; RMetS United Kingdom)
Gudrun Nína Petersen (FIV, Iceland)
Jenni Rauhala (FMI, Finland)
Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Italy)
Carlos Yagüe (AME, Spain)

9. Budget

The financial risk connected with the Annual Meetings due to *Force-majeure* (such as strikes, volcano outbreaks etc) is estimated at 100K€, There is no possibility to take out insurance against such a risk, and Council agreed that the budget should be kept close to the current balance. The Budget 2012 as agreed by the Council is attached in Annex C (C153: 8:0:0); it has been revised in order to harmonise income and expenditure.

An estimate from the income from abstract submission fees has been included in the budget. The overall aim is that the Annual Conferences should provide an income of 40,000Euro, in order to finance planned activities and to keep the budget balanced. The CoM has been asked to take this target into account when evaluating proposals for future venues.

Young Scientist Travel Awards are reduced in number and prize money (400Euro). Dependent on the financial outcome of the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011, this decision may be revised. The EMS Bureau was given responsibility for making any decisions about this issue.

It was agreed in principle that the funding of the YSTAs would increase in years in which the Europhotometeo competition did not take place.

The amount available for the organisation and prize money for the Europhotometeo 2012 is reduced from 4800 to 3000Euro.

10. Membership

In Bulgaria a section of meteorologists was formed as part of the Union of Physicists of Sofia: the Bulgarian Meteorological Society (Annex VII). The society is applying for Membership in the EMS.

The EMS Council welcomes the Bulgarian Meteorological Society, presently organized as section “Meteorologists” with the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria (UBP), as a new EMS Member Society. (C154: 8:0:0)

11. Election EMS Officers

The term of the President of the EMS is normally three years and ends with the election of a new president. Fritz Neuwirth was elected as President in autumn 2008 and has now come to the end of his period of office.

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) is resigning as EMS Treasurer with effect from the 25th EMS Council on 11 September 2011.

The EMS Council thanked both Fritz Neuwirth and Gerhard Steinhorst for their services to the EMS. Their commitment and contributions had been a major factor in the continuing growth in the Annual Meetings and a wider recognition of the EMS in the meteorological and related communities.

This EMS Council elected Dominique Marbouty (SMF, France) as EMS President for the term 2011 to 2014. (C155: 8:0:0).

Dominique Marbouty accepted the election as President. He stressed that he was involved in the EMS from the start in various functions and is proud to be the President. According to the constitution, the elected President automatically becomes a member of the Council if not already a representative. Until the end of the conference week D. Marbouty is the *President-elect*.

Resolution C156

This EMS Council elects Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France) as EMS Treasurer for the term 2011 – 2014. (C156: 8:0:0)

Jean-Pierre Chalon has accepted the election as Treasurer of the EMS.

12. Council Composition

Proposal for the term 2011 - 2013

Rotating representatives

The Belgium society SRBA, the Danish society DaMS and the Croatian society HME have accepted the invitation to be represented on the EMS Council for the term 2011-2013. Israel has accepted to be represented on the Council for the term 2012-2014. A proposal concerning Council representation was submitted to the 13th General Assembly.

Permanent representatives

Gerhard Steinhorst resigned as representative of the DMG, Germany with effect from the 25th EMS Council on 11 September 2011. The DMG has nominated Prof. Dr. K.H. Schlünzen (University of Hamburg) as representative on the EMS Council.

Guidelines for selection of rotating representatives

In considering future compositions of the EMS Council, the following criteria should be taken into account:

- Europe-wide geographical representation;
- Rotation should encompass all Member Societies;
- Capabilities in terms of resources.

13. Code of Ethics

Following discussion of the draft code of ethics presented by Christophe Billard at the 24th Council Session, a revised version was provided to the 13th EMS General Assembly (Annex VIII). It was agreed that the document should be re-named “Code of practice”.

Consideration had been given how the code of practice should be used in the communication with different communities. The report should:

- go on the web and be distributed to EMS Members as statement of the EMS.
- be considered as a developing document that is not carved in stone.
- be discussed and used by the EMS Member Societies; if adapted or modified this should be reported back.
- be used to approach IABM and ask the media community to consider this as a basis for their own behaviour.

14. AOB

The RMetS is taking action to considerably increase its membership and is concerned about the impact this may have on the membership fee payments to the EMS, already being the largest contributor to the budget. Another issue is the long-term future of the 5000Euro payments made by the permanent members of Council. RMetS will prepare a paper about these matters for consideration at the spring session of the EMS Council.

The Media Team made a proposal about the reorganisation of the team and projects to more effectively build up an international network (Annex IX). A specific proposal will be put forward to the spring session of Council. The AME offered an additional member of the Team.

15. Next Council Session

The 26th Session of the EMS Council will convene on 15/16 March 2012; the venue still has to be confirmed.

Martina Junge
25 October 2011

ANNEX A: Resolutions 25th Session of the EMS Council

Resolution C149

This EMS Council approves the report of the EMS Bureau.

Resolution C150

The EMS Council decides to allocate 25.220,00 Euro of the income-expenditure result 2010 to the Free Reserve (Freie Rücklage).

Resolution C151

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C152

The EMS Council appoints Johannes Schmetz (EUMETSAT) as chair of the Awards Committee 2011-2013.

Resolution C153

This EMS Council approves the Budget 2012 (as attached).

Resolution C154

This EMS Council welcomes the Bulgarian Meteorological Society, presently organized as section "Meteorologists" with the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria (UBP), as new EMS Member Society.

Resolution C155

This EMS Council elects Dominique Marbouty (SMF, France) as EMS President for the term 2011 – 2014.

Resolution C156

This EMS Council elects Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France) as EMS Treasurer for the term 2011 – 2014.

Annex B: Revised Expenditure Plan 2011

All financial figures are given in Euro.

Carried forward from 2010	96 540	96 540
	Budget as agreed by Council	Forecast
INCOME 2011		
Income from Members	23 500	23 500
Income from Associate Members	38 400	38 400
Annual Meeting	25 000	15 000
Other income		
Total	86 900	76 900

EXPENDITURE 2011		
Salaries	69 600	69 600
Policy Advice Development Group, Committees, Project Teams	4 500	1 500
Awards	14 000	14 000
Workshops (forecasters, media, presentation)	6 000	4 000
Publications & Annual Report	8 000	8 000
Honoraries, Fees	4 000	4 000
Travelling	7 000	7 000
Support Council participation	1 000	300
Office costs	2 000	1 000
Banking charges	300	150
Tax on license fee AM2010		3 930
Total	116 400	113 480
INCOME – EXPENDITURE 2011	-29 500	-36 580
Account Balance expected for 31 Dec 2011	67 040	59 960

Annex C: Budget 2012 as agreed by the EMS Council

All financial figures are given in Euro.

Carried forward from 2011 (prospect)	60.000	60.000
	Proposal to C25	Revisions during C25
INCOME 2012		
Income from Members	23.500	23.500
Income from Associate Members	38.400	38.400
Annual Meeting	25.000	40.000
Total	86.900	101.900
EXPENDITURE 2012		
Salaries	69.600	69.600
Committees, Project Teams	4.500	1.500
Europhoto Competition	4.800	3.000
Awards	14.000	11.000
Workshops	2.000	1.000
Publications & Annual Report	4.000	4.000
Honoraries, Fees	4.000	4.000
Travelling	7.000	7.000
Support Council participation	1.000	1.000
Office costs	2.000	1.000
Banking charges	300	300
Tax on income annual meeting 2011	1.050	1.050
Total	114.250	104.450
INCOME – EXPENDITURE 2012	-27.350	-2.550
Account Balance expected on 31/12/2012	32.650	57.450