

34th EMS Council Session
17 – 18 March 2016, Berlin, Germany

Minutes of 09 May 2016
adopted

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS, Bulgaria)

Svante Bodin (SMS, Sweden)

Horst Böttger (EMS President)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair Media Team)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Tomáš Halenka (ČMeS, Czech Republic); also Chair of the EMS Project Team Education

Sylvain Joffre (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)

Ewen McCallum (RMetS, UK) – until 11:00 (18 Mar)

Fritz Neuwirth (ÖMG, Austria)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Italy) – from 15:30 (17 Mar)

Axel Thomalla (DWD, Germany), representing NMHS observer group

Luís Pessanha (APMG, Portugal) could not attend.

8 Council representatives were present from the start of the session at 14:00, 9 Council representatives were present from 15:30 (Thursday, 17 March); on Friday one Council representative left at 11:00 am. The quorum is 7.

The Session opened at 14:00h on 17 March 2016, adjourned at 18:00, reopened at 9:00 on 18 March 2016 and closed at 12:00h.

Minutes: *Martina Junge*

1. Opening of the 34th Session

The EMS President opened the 34th Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants. In particular he did welcome the new representatives from Sweden, Austria and the UK. This was followed by Gudrun Rosenhagen, President of DMG, welcoming the EMS Council on behalf of all the hosts of DACH2016 expressing their pride in hosting this important event in Germany. Gudrun Rosenhagen also reported on the joint publication *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, published by DMG, ÖGM and SGM that is now fully Open Access. She wished best of success for the Council Sessions. The EMS President thanked the hosts of the DACH 2016 for hosting this Council Session in the frame of the conference.

With 8 councillors present (9 from 15:30) the necessary quorum was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

2. Acceptance of Agenda and early announcement of any AOB

A preliminary agenda was distributed with the invitation to attend the Council meeting. For agenda point AOB (15) two items were announced: a paper on the EMS history (H: Böttger), an issue related to the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift* (H. Schlünzen). The agenda was accepted.

3. Implementation of decisions taken at the 33rd Session of the EMS Council

The draft minutes of the 33rd Session of the EMS Council have been distributed to all participants of that meeting. Revisions that were submitted to the Executive Secretary within four weeks after distribution have been implemented. The minutes were then distributed to EMS Members. The minutes

were subsequently held adopted (Rules of procedure 57) and are available from <http://www.emetsoc.org/governance-structure/council/council-meetings>.

The implementation of decisions recorded in the minutes has been detailed in paper *C34_03_Implementation-of-Decisions-C33*, provided in part II of the minutes – Annexes. All decisions have been implemented, C33.12 (Treatment of non-selected award nominations) will only become relevant after this session.

In addition to recording decisions, the minutes also identify short-term actions: the action for the Bureau to review the budget for 2016 after the outcome from the EMS & ECAM 2015 was known has been done; details were provided in the report of the Treasurer (paper C34_06).

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session as well as on initiatives taken by the EMS Bureau (part II – Annexes: paper *C34_04_Report-President-Bureau*).

C34.01 Report of the President and Bureau: Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau. (Votes: 8:0:0)

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary reported on the activities and actions of the Secretariat since the last Council Session (part II – Annexes: paper *C34_05_Report-Secretariat*), which included preparations for the programme and organisation of the EMS & ECAC 2016, support for all committees and project teams, and work for the Europhotmeteo competition 2016.

The report included a summary of the 4th Global Meeting of the IFMS; the summary report of the IFMS-GM4 as finalised by the chair of that meeting was also provided to Council in preparation of the discussion.

The Council discussed the level of involvement of the EMS in the IFMS; Council's view:

- Currently the EMS Council does not see its engagement in the IFMS development beyond the current levels.
- The EMS does not have resources (financial and staff) to get engaged. It was stressed that EMS Member Societies would not be prepared to pay twice.
- IFMS may benefit more from focusing on the potential for contributing to international assistance to developing countries, including capacity building and complimentary to WMO activities, by drawing on a roster of meteorological and climatological expertise as well as seeking funding from national and international sources of funding for implementation of such projects. The EMS may be interested in supporting and participating in such activities.

On behalf of the entire Council, the President thanked the staff of the secretariat for their excellent work and support.

6. Report of the Treasurer

The financial report, as given by the Treasurer to the EMS Council, is provided in part II – Annexes: paper *C34_06_Report-Treasurer*.

C34.02 Allocation of Free Reserves: Council decided to allocate 10 592.30€ of the income 2015 to the Free Reserve (Freie Rücklage). (Votes: 9:0:0)

EMS membership fees are based on the number of individual members of a Member Society and are increased annually on the basis of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) published by EUROSTAT. At its 30th Session Council agreed that the increase in membership fees should be kept automatic. The membership fees in 2016 are 1.173€/individual member of a Member Society.

C34.03 Report of the Treasurer: Council approved the Report of the Treasurer. (Votes: 9:0:0)

The President thanked the Treasurer Heinke Schlünzen for her excellent work in preparing and presenting the accounts and the budget.

7. Strategy

Following the discussion at the 33th Session of the EMS Council, Bob Riddaway prepared a new version of the discussion paper. This was distributed to all Council members and feedback resulted in a future revision (paper C34_07, part II – Annexes).

The Council welcomed the paper by Bob Riddaway on the strategic plan and thought it was a very interesting and thorough piece of work. The Chairman said that the paper would be reviewed by Council at this meeting, then a revised version sent to all EMS Member organisations, before the paper is endorsed by the General Assembly in the autumn.

The following general comments were made:

- Jean-Pierre Chalon thought that there could be more emphasis on Climate but other members disagreed and thought meteorology encompassed all things to do with the 'physics of the atmosphere'. This can be easily overcome in the wording in the document with perhaps a preliminary definition.
- Structure of the paper: Svante Bodin thought that the analysis could be captured in an Annex and leave the document as a 'strategy only' document. Some disagreed with this and so after much discussion the following compromise was agreed: The document will be structured into two parts, part 1 will contain the analysis of the current situation, part 2 will be labelled as the strategy. This is in line with the draft document. The proposed structure is meant to facilitate reading for newcomers to the EMS and its bodies. Details of implementation will be left to the reviewer of the document, Bob Riddaway.

Detailed answers to the relevant questions posed in section 2 of the document were discussed (provided in Annex B) and the conclusions will be incorporated in the final version of the strategy document.

Regards targets raised in 6.1 of the paper and the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy, it was agreed that the committees and project teams will be tasked to review their terms and activities in light of the strategy plan; this item could then become part of the review reporting to Council.

Additional comments have been noted and provided to Bob Riddaway who volunteered to revise the document accordingly.

The President concluded the discussion on the strategy plan by again thanking Bob for his valuable work and that a revised version of the paper would be sent out to all Member organisations. **(Action)**

8. EMS Meetings: CoM report

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee, the preparations for the EMS & ECAC 2016, conveyed the recommendation of the CoM regarding the venue for the EMS Annual Meeting in 2019 and a number of strategic issues (part II – Annexes: paper C34_08_Report-CoM).

a. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2015

In the evaluation of the feedback from participants a number of issues were raised:

- Council recommends that USB sticks with the conference programme are not provided for future conferences. As these were funded by a sponsor in the past other options of support should be discussed with the company.
- Photo taking at the EMS Meetings: on the website and in the programme book it will be made clear that photo taking of presentations is legally not allowed; however, the ban will not be enforced as far as these photos may be taken for private use.

b. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2016

The preparations for the EMS & ECAC 2016 have been reported (part II – Annexes: C34_08, item 2); the call for abstract ends on 21 April 2016.

c. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2017

The CoM made a proposal for the membership of the Programme and Science Committee of the EMS & ECAM 2017 in Dublin (part II – Annexes: C34_08, Annex IV).

C34.04 PSC for EMS & ECAM 2017: Council approved the membership of the PSC for the EMS & ECAM 2017 as proposed in part II – Annexes: C34_08, Annex IV. (Votes: 9:0:0)

With this approval the proposed organisations and/or individuals will be invited to serve on the committee.

d. Future venues

Council considered the information on the proposed venues and the recommendation by the CoM.

C34.05 Venue for the EMS Annual Meeting 2019: Council agreed to hold the EMS Annual Meeting 2019 at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Lyngby Campus, hosted by the Danish Meteorological Society (DaMS) and the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI). The dates will be 09 – 13 September 2019. (Votes: 9:0:0)

Council thanks DaMS, DMI and DTU for the proposal and invitation.

Action: Council took note of further proposals that were received/announced, and tasked the CoM to evaluate these and make a recommendation to Council for venues in 2020 and beyond.

e. Strategic Issues**Collaboration with EUMETNET**

Council took note of the communication with EUMETNET on a possible stronger involvement in the EMS Annual Meetings, and did welcome initiatives on this level. Possibilities for EUMETNET to include presentations in the session programme, hold site meetings and also be active on the Programme and Science Committee should be discussed with them. **(Action)**

Restructuring Concept for the EMS Annual Meeting Session Programme

The CoM, in analysing the development of the EMS Annual Meetings over the last decade, developed a concept of the session programme that would take into account the development towards more integration and convergence of science branches, applications and actors. This restructuring concept tries to address these issues with a rationale that the building blocks of the conference programme would be based on where the main driver of the work lies, i.e.:

- i) Understanding Processes and Interactions,
- ii) Operational Methodologies and Applications, and
- iii) Knowledge Transfer with End-Users/Stake-holders.

Council did welcome this initiative and the general idea of the new concept. An envisaged merging of ECAM and ECAC appears to reflect developments of the programme and was supported. The focal themes of the meetings will clearly balance the programmes accordingly and reflect the ECAC and ECAM cultures. However, discussion with the respective stakeholders is important.

Some concerns were raised regarding cross-cutting topics and seemingly separation of science and applications. In the further elaboration of the concept involvement of the Programme Group Chairs in a first step and the PSC is important. Also Convenors should be briefed of the plans well in advance. The aim is to start the implementation of the new structure (fully or partly) for the EMS2017 in Dublin.

9. Awards & Prizes

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.

YSTAs are announced for the following events: DACH2016 (organised by DMG, ÖGM, SGM), Air Quality 2016, EMS & ECAC 2016, 2016 EUMETSAT Satellite Conference (2 YSTAs funded by EUMETSAT), 30th Nordic Meteorological Meeting (NMM30; organised by SMS - Member Society), ECMWF Annual Seminar, European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology (ERAD2016), AMS Mountain Met, 8th Earth Observation Summer School on Earth System Monitoring and Modelling (poster awards).

Silver Medal

C34.06 Silver Medallist 2016: This EMS Council selected Michel Jarraud as the recipient for the EMS Silver Medal 2016.

Citation: “The EMS Silver Medal is awarded to Michel Jarraud for his significant scientific contributions to the establishment of spectral methods in numerical weather prediction, his leading role in developing the World Meteorological Organization into the recognized authority about weather, climate and water within the United Nations system, and his part in the development of several major initiatives, in particular the launching of the Global Framework for Climate Services.”

The Council thanked the members of the Awards Committee for their work, in particular for that related to the call for nominations for the Silver Medal, and the evaluation and the recommendations made to Council.

The representative of DMG thanked the EMS for providing a Young Scientist Travel Award for the DACH, also on behalf of ÖGM and SGM.

9.2. EMS Media Awards

The Media Team presented proposals for the membership of the selection committees for the EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award, The Outreach and Communication Award and the TV Weather Forecast Award. It also proposed a minor change to the Terms of Reference for the awards.

C34.07 EMS Media Awards 2016, Selection committees: The EMS Council approved the following composition of the selection committees:

EMS Outreach and Communication Award: Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia (chair); Fulvio Stel, Italy; Tomas Halenka, Czech Republic; Rasmus Benestad, Norway; Liz Bentley, United Kingdom; Michael Williams, WMO.

TV Weather Forecast Award: Jay Trobec; USA (chair); Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia; Martín Barreiro, Spain; Panos Giannopoulos, Greece; Claire Martin, Canada; Jill Peters, Belgium.

Broadcast Meteorologist Award: Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia; Guðrún Nína Petersen, Iceland; Inge Niedek, Germany; Gerald Fleming, Ireland; Paul Gross, USA. (Votes: 9:0:0)

It was agreed that for all EMS Media Awards the maximum number of experts for each of the selection committees is not limited.

C34.08: EMS Media Awards, Terms of Reference: The EMS Council approved the following change in the Terms of Reference: For all EMS Media Awards the phrase “at least” is added in front of the number of experts. (Votes: 9:0:0)

9.3. EMS Technology Achievement Award

A report on the nominations for the Technology Achievement Award, including a recommendation to Council and a proposal for a citation, was presented by the selection committee.

Two nominations were received:

- *MARS* - the ECMWF meteorological archive and retrieval system, nominated by ECMWF
- *BOBER* (Better Observation for better Environmental Response) – Distributed “real-time” Environmental Measuring System (DEMS), developed by Bojan Černač, nominated by the Slovenian Meteorological Society.

C34.09 EMS Technology Achievement Award: This EMS Council selected *MARS* and *BOBER-DEMS* to receive the EMS Technology Achievement Award 2016.

Citation for *MARS*: *MARS* (The Meteorological Archival and Retrieval System) is the main repository of meteorological data at ECMWF containing petabytes of operational and research data. *MARS* constitutes a unique approach to meteorological data storage and retrieval technology that has had and continues to have a huge impact on developments in many organisations by making vast quantities of meteorological data accessible to thousands of organisations and individuals.

Citation for *BOBER*/B. Černač: The *BOBER* (Better Observation for better Environmental Response) - Distributed “real-time” Environmental Measuring System, developed under the guidance of Bojan Černač, is recognised for an innovative concept of automatic stations implemented as a state of the art measuring system which enables higher degree of maintenance, flexibility, portability, modularity and diagnostics. *BOBER* will have an impact for many years to come. (Votes: 9:0:0).

It was noted that awarding two projects will remain an exception, and is only done so this year because it is the first time the award is presented.

Council supports the initiative of the TAA committee to reconsider the terms of reference in light of experience of this first announcement and submissions and also take into account whether novelty should maybe be considered as a criteria.

The Council is grateful for the work of the committee and appreciated the in-depth discussions and considerations that were raised for the Council to consider.

9.4. EMS Tromp Awards

A report on the announcement of the EMS Tromp Award 2016 and the newly established EMS Tromp Young Scientist Travel Awards (EMS Tromp YSTA) for presentations specifically of papers in biometeorology at the EMS & ECAC was presented (part II – Annexes: C34_09-04_EMS-Tromp-Awards)

The EMS is grateful for the support of the Tromp Foundation for these YSTAs that are a valuable addition of the awards programme and tremendous support for the EMS Conferences and young scientists.

A change in the selection committee for the EMS Tromp Award was announced: Blaž Kurnik (EEA) replaces Andreas Matzerakis (University Freiburg, Germany).

9.5. Europhotometeo 2016

A report on the announcement, submissions and selection process of the Europhotometeo 2016 was presented by the organiser of the competition. It was striking that almost 35% of the admitted photos were from Spain, a further 24% from Russia. It is not clear why that is so as promotion was also good in other countries by EMS Members and beyond.

It was also noted that many submissions did not comply with the requirement, and a revision of the definition should be considered for future competitions.

The voting by the Jury was not yet finished by the time of the Council Session; the final results will be made public after 31 March 2016.

The Council thanked the organiser and organising committee, the pre-selection committee and jury members very much for their commitment and time they took to make this competition happen.

10. Review of Project Teams, boards and committees

A review of the work of the Teams on Media and Education as well as the Editorial Board was presented (part II – Annexes: paper C34_10_Review-Project-Teams).

Media

The chair of the Media Team reported on recent activities and in particular what is planned during the EMS & ECAC in Trieste (see paper C34_10).

Editorial Board

Fritz Neuwirth, a member of the editorial board, reported on the activities of the Editorial Board (see paper C34_10).

Education Team

After the disbanding of the ECTOM data base as an EMS Project the chair of the Education Team presented some brain storming on possible education activities of the EMS, which included a “poster show case”, with an external peer review and selection of best posters.

The chair was tasked to prepare a detailed proposal of such an activity that outlines the idea and concept for the next Council session. **(Action)**

11. Membership

A paper on the development in the EMS Membership was presented (part II – Annexes: paper C34_11_Membership).

- The Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET, Spanish NMHS) is again a full Associate Member.
- The Academic Association of Russian Universities in Hydrometeorology has been integrated into a larger organisation, the Geosciences Academic Association of the Russian Federation and consequently ceased to exist as such; thus the Associate Membership of AAH ended; the Geosciences Association is not a Member of the EMS.

12. Council Composition 2016 – 2017

The considerations and status with respect to invite new rotating representatives to the EMS Council are detailed in Annex II – paper C34_12_Council-Composition.

The Executive Secretary updated the Council on the status of communication with possible candidates. Input from Council was that if the communication does not result in positive responses the societies that recently joined the EMS should be considered and contacted.

The question was raised whether Members not represented on the Council could attend Council sessions as observers. It appears that the Rules and procedures open up such possibilities.

13. AOB

13.1. EMS history paper

As detailed in the report of the President and Bureau, four people centrally involved in the foundation of the EMS, have developed a paper recording the history of founding the EMS. Should no journal accept the paper for publication there may be a request to make the paper available on the Society's web site. The Council supports that the paper would then be referred to the Editorial Board by the Bureau.

13.2. EMS Townhall meeting at AMS Annual Meeting 2017

The EMS President reported on communication with the American Meteorological Society, and that exchange of speakers at the respective annual conferences would be pursued.

The AMS will send a strategic speaker for the Opening Session of the EMS & ECAC in September 2016 in Trieste.

The EMS Bureau suggests to propose to the AMS that the chair of the Media Team will present the EMS Media and Outreach activities at the AMS Meeting in Seattle in January 2017 in an EMS Townhall Meeting. The Council did welcome this proposal. **(Action)**

13.3. Meteorologische Zeitschrift

It was reported that the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, a peer-reviewed open access journal, published by DMG, ÖGM and SGM, is not rated as a peer-reviewed journal in some countries.

The Executive Secretary together with the DMG representative was tasked to make contacts with relevant people in the respective Member Society to inquire whether they are aware of any such process and the possible reasons for this. **(Action)**

13.4. Nordic Meteorologists' Meeting

The representative of Sweden reported on the preparations of the Nordic Meteorologists' Meeting (NMM30) that will take place in Stockholm 22-24 August 2016. Contributions are welcome internationally, and in particular from European countries. Deadline for submissions is 15 May 2016.

13.5. Council Session in spring 2017

The French meteorological society, météo et climat, invited the EMS Council to hold its 36th Session in spring 2017 in Paris. Also the Bulgarian Met Society invited the EMS Council, but as the proposal from France has been on the table already in 2015, the invitation from Bulgaria was deferred to a later opportunity.

14. 35th Council Session

C34.10 Venue for 35th Council Session: The 35th Session will be held on 11 September 2016 in Trieste, Italy, during the EMS & ECAC 2016. (Votes: 8:0:0).

In closing, the President thanked all council representatives and committee chairs for their attendance and active participation in this session.

The meeting closed at 12:00h on Friday 18 March 2016.

ANNEX A: List of Decisions of the EMS Council at its 34th Session, 17 – 18 March 2016

C34.01 Report of the President and Bureau: Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau.

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C34.10 Venue for 35th Council Session: The 35th Session will be held on 11 September 2016 in Trieste, Italy, during the EMS & ECAC 2016.

Annex B: Comments on Strategy Paper**Response to questions on page 1 of document C34_07 (provided in bold):**

When members of Council were asked for their comments, there were several issues that were raised but have not yet been addressed. The following are some of them.

- It has been suggested that it is not clear what is meant by "all classes of membership" in the mission statement. Should this statement be simplified to something like "*To this end EMS will work to achieve enhance cooperation, communication and understanding between Member Societies and Associate Members*"? **OK**
- One of the weaknesses identified is "No explicit mandate or mechanism to act as a European voice on critical or controversial matters". It has been pointed out that mandate does not forbid this though it does not explicitly state it. It is argued that the mission statement open doors for a lot of lobbying, drafting statement alone or with our Members and Associate Members on related subject to support our science, community and role in society. Should the EMS try to be more influential in providing a European voice? Are the mechanisms and resources available, even if it is a desirable thing to do? **Yes but carefully, mainly as a support to other initiatives or organisations**
- Now that preparation of the education database (ECTOM) is no longer an EMS activity, should there be other educational activities included in the plan? **Yes; since EMS is aiming at better understanding and recognition of our community in society, education should be one main pillar of EMS activities apart the conference. However, this should be done not only internally but with the education world. Some preparatory, surveying, issue-identification activity should be first launched.**
- Is it realistic for an EMS objective to be raising the profile of member Societies? Various societies have different starting points and it is difficult to design activities and actions that lead to raising such different "profiles". Is it more important for EMS to offer something that is complimentary to what the national societies can contribute and are of interest to members? **"Promote and Support" instead of "raise"**.
- Should more emphasis be put on to how hydrology and other interrelated sciences could play a role within the EMS framework? **See discussion in the main part of the minutes.**
- Should there be more about further exploring the opportunities offered by various internet applications (e.g. webinars, YouTube, web casts and web based training)? EMS on Facebook looks interesting but there are probably few that know about it. **Probably yes but resources and/or volunteers should be found.**
- Should consideration be given to selling advertising space? **The Secretariat will investigate first the legal aspects of it.**