

20th EMS General Assembly

2 September 2018

Budapest, Hungary

Minutes, 15 October 2018

adopted

Participants: (voting representatives underlined)

Meda Andrei (SMR, Romania)

Liz Bentley (RMets, UK)

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS, Bulgaria) - voting on behalf of Bulgaria (BMS and AMC)

Svante Bodin (SMS, Sweden)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (Météo et Climat, France)

Sorin Cheval (ARMAE, Romania)

Renato R. Colucci (UMFVG, Italy)

Zoltán Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Gerald Fleming, IMS, Ireland

Emily Gleeson (Chair Liaison Committee; IMS Ireland)

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Tomáš Halenka (CMeS, Czech Republic)

Paul Halton (IMS, Ireland)

Sylvain Joffre (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Mirima Jarosova (SMS, Slovakia)

Marc Prohom (ACAM, Spain; meteo.cat) – voting together with AME

Panagiotis Nastos (HMH, Greece)

Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)

Bob Riddaway (EMS President)

Olavo Rasquinho (APMG, Portugal)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Dennis Schulze (Meteogroup)

Irene Suomi (GS, Finland)

Ricardo Torrijo (AME, Spain) – ACAM voting for Spain.

Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)

Laura Zubiate (member Liaison Committee; IMS Ireland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

28 participants

1. Opening of session

The President opened the 20th General Assembly by thanking the hosts of the Hungarian Meteorological Society (MMT) and the Hungarian Meteorological Service for hosting the EMS Annual Meeting 2018 in Budapest and providing a warm welcome for participants. In particular he thanked the MMT President and the entire local organising team for preparing an interesting side programme. The presence of 19 nominated representatives of EMS Member Societies was verified; the quorum is 10. The presiding officer declared that the quorum is fulfilled. Votes are given as (acceptance : abstention : rejection).

2. Acceptance of Agenda, including early announcement of AOB

The Agenda was accepted as proposed.

3. Minutes of the 19th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 19th session of the EMS General Assembly were distributed in October 2017 to all participants. Revisions and corrections that were received within four weeks were included in the final minutes. The minutes are held adopted.

4. Report of the President and the Bureau

The President reported on his activities since the last General Assembly and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA20_04*).

The EMS Annual Report 2017, detailing activities of the EMS in the previous year, was published online, distributed through the website in August 2018 and issued to all Member Societies and Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly. The Annual Report 2017 was presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council.

The President reported on decisions of the Council related to the Europhotometeo competition. The General Assembly was also informed about the re-election of Jean-Pierre Chalon as Vice-President for three more years until 2021, as well as the re-election of K. Heinke Schlünzen as Treasurer for the same period of time.

The EMS will be represented at the IFMS Global Meeting on 5 and 6 September 2018 in Budapest by Fritz Neuwirth.

GA20.01 Approval of Bureau Report September 2017 – September 2018 (*Entlastung*): The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period *September 2017 – September 2018*. (Votes 19:0:0)

5. Report of the EMS Secretariat

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the secretariat since the last General Assembly (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA20_05*).

In particular it was stressed that, due to the new EU regulations on protection of personal data, some procedures may become more formal in future.

6. Finance

6.1. Report of the Treasurer

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly in paper *GA20_06_Report-Treasurer*, including the Audit Report on the financial accounts 2017 (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper GA20_06).

GA20.02 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung): The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer. (Votes: 19:0:0).

Budget 2019

A proposal for the EMS Budget 2019 had been provided for the 39th EMS Council Session (2 September 2018). The Treasurer presented the revised Budget 2019 agreed by the EMS Council at its earlier session. This included an explanation of amendments related to the salaries of the staff and the implementation of the tools for the Europhotometeo competition in 2019 and corresponding prize money in 2020.

6.2. Appointment of the Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly that the Kanzlei für Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung/ Accountancy and Tax Practice Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Berlin, Germany shall be commissioned as the auditor (<http://www.keil-steuerberater.de/en/>).

GA20.03 Auditor appointment: The General Assembly appointed Kanzlei für Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung/ Accountancy and Tax Practice Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2018. (Votes: 19:0:0).

7. Communication with Member Societies and Associate Members

The Chair of the Liaison Committee, Emily Gleeson (IMS, Ireland) reported on the activities of the committee over the last year, in particular the efforts to provide the community with more regular and interesting information via the website, the newsletter *ems-message* and the social media. The slides are included in Minutes part II – Annexes.

The subsequent discussion highlighted the following points:

ems-message

- The language should not be a barrier to submitting items because the native English-speakers on the committee check and edit all articles with respect to the English.
- It is not clear how many societies further distribute the newsletter to their individual members, or make it accessible on their website through a link.
- It would be worthwhile considering whether the *ems-message* could be promoted in connection with the Annual Meeting.

Social media

- It would be desirable to find ways of encouraging people to connect.
- Experience of RMetS: Facebook drives people to the RMetS website the most; Instagram is the preferential channel currently used by young people; planning/preparing of content and posts is possible, but reaction to issues coming up is also important.
- Concentration on specific communities may be the best strategy.

Additionally, it was suggested that Member Societies would benefit from being provided with an overview of international trends and activities in meteorology. It was noted that material for such a purpose is already available from, for example, WMO publications and news releases.

8. Sharing experiences

8.1. Accreditation

Liz Bentley (RMetS) and Heinke Schlünzen (DMG) gave short overviews about the accreditation and certification schemes of both these societies.

The RMetS offers options that other societies could either:

- Use the scheme in their country under a license from RMetS,
- Adapt the scheme to their specific needs, or
- Receive support for developing a country-specific scheme.

Summarising: Key for accreditation is the independent assessment; this is an opportunity for societies to establish themselves as independent bodies in such processes and gain recognition.

The following issues were raised.

- There would be a resource problem for small societies to establish an accreditation scheme.
- It is important to be clear about the differing roles of qualifications and accreditation.
- In most countries it is possible for people to call themselves meteorologists without any specific qualification or accreditation.
- Accreditation can be used by private companies to give assurance to customers about the quality of their services.

8.2. Support for early-career scientists

This point was found particularly important for all the Societies: the Societies need to keep the students engaged with them, and be relevant to the development of their careers. Examples of different activities were reported by a number of Members: student conference, travel awards and youth section developing activities independently.

8.3. Education: due to lack of time this item was postponed.

9. Changes to Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly and Council

Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, Rule 2:

In the view of the Council, it would seem reasonable that at a General Assembly, all the Member Societies should have the same rights regardless of whether a state has more than one Member Society, and regardless of the number of individual members. Consequently, the Council has recommended that Rule 2 be removed from the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

Rule 2

In addition to the provision of Rule 1, where a State has more than one Member Society, the Member Societies in that State shall communicate to the Executive Secretary the names of speakers who shall represent all the Member Societies of that State at the General Assembly, and which Society (to be known as a Representative Society) shall represent them all in the votes (see Rule 16).

GA20.04 Rules of Procedure GA: The General Assembly rejected the proposal that Rule 2 of the *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly* be removed. (Votes: 5:8:6).

Nominating a proxy for a General Assembly

It is likely that at a General Assembly there will be some Member Societies that will not be represented. Consequently, Council has recommended that a Member Society that is not represented would be allowed to nominate a proxy (i.e. a person authorized to act on behalf of another).

GA20.05 Rules of Procedure GA - Nomination of a proxy: The General Assembly approved to add the following new Rule 2b to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly:

Rule 2b (new): A Member Society may nominate another Member Society as a proxy to speak and vote on its behalf. Notification of the name of the proxy must be conveyed to the Executive Secretary in writing in advance of the General Assembly. A Member Society can only act as a proxy for one other Member Society. (Votes: 6:11:2).

Voting by correspondence at Council

According to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure for Council, it would be a slow process to have urgent, non-controversial or procedural matters dealt with by a vote by correspondence that arise after a Council session has taken place. Consequently, Council has recommended that Rule 50 be amended to provide more flexibility in using votes by correspondence.

GA20.06 Rules of Procedure Council - Voting by correspondence: The General Assembly approved the changes to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure for Council (changes are given in italic):

A vote by correspondence is a ballot, that can be called by the President at any time between sessions of the Council at the request of at least two Council Members. The invitation to vote can be sent around to the *Council* Members at once upon receipt of the request, if it *concerns (a) an urgent matter, (b) a matter which has been described earlier by the EMS Council in session as something which should be settled in this fashion or (c) an uncontroversial or procedural matter for which a prompt decision will enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of EMS's activities.* For other matters, sending out an invitation to vote by correspondence must be preceded by sending around adequate information on the matter to be voted upon not less than 30 days earlier, so that Representatives who wish to exchange views on the matter can do so before the invitation to vote is sent out. (Votes: 19:0:0).

Choosing representatives on Council

It is within the spirit of the EMS that the person chosen to represent a Society at the Council is a member of that Society, though this is not stated explicitly. Consequently, to avoid any confusion about this matter, the Council has recommended that Rule 2 be amended.

GA20.07 Rules of Procedure Council - Choosing representatives: The General Assembly approved the changes to Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure for Council (changes are given in *italic*):

Rule 2: Each Member Society elected at a General Assembly to provide representation on the Council shall communicate to the Executive Secretary of the Society the name of the person *from that Society* who will represent it at the Council. For continuity, the Representative normally shall remain as long as possible, with a minimum of one year. (Votes: 19:0:0).

10. Council Composition

After this session of the General Assembly the term of two rotating Members on the EMS Council will end: Svante Bodin as representative of SMS (Sweden) and Fritz Neuwirth as representative of ÖGM (Austria). The President thanked the outgoing Council representatives for their commitment to the EMS and the important contributions they had made to the work of the EMS Council during their years of office.

Election of Council Members

The Council proposed to the General Assembly two new Members to be elected for three years.

GA20.08 New Council members starting in 2018: The General Assembly elected the Swiss Society for Meteorology (SGM), represented by Saskia Willemse, and the Greek Meteorological Society (HMH-EMTE), represented by Panagiotis Nastos, as Members of the EMS Council for the term autumn 2018 – autumn 2021. (Votes: 19:0:0).

11. EMS Membership

The Executive Secretary reported that since the last General Assembly two applications for EMS Membership were received: the Macedonian Association of Aeronautical Meteorologists (Zdruzenie na Vozduhoplovni Meteorolozi – Meteo, ZVMM), Republic of Macedonia, applied for Membership in March 2018. The application had been approved by the EMS Council at its Session on 10/11 April 2018 (Council decisions C38.19).

GA20.09 EMS Membership: The General Assembly welcomed the Zdruzenie na Vozduhoplovni Meteorolozi – Meteo (ZVMM) as new EMS Member Society. (Votes: 19:0:0).

The Asociația Română de Meteorologie Aplicată și Educație (ARMAE) (Romanian Association for Applied Meteorology and Education), founded in 2018, has applied for EMS Membership in July 2018. It is expected that, once some additional information has been acquired, a decision about the application will be made by Council when it meets in March 2019.

The President of ARMAE introduced the Society; it consists of established scientists and students; its Vice-President is involved in ESSL. The headquarters of the society is located at the University of Romania in Bukarest. High priority of its activities is given to meteorological education in primary schools; one of the objectives is to organise a conference in future.

The EMS Secretariat reported that payments by IMS (ISRAEL) and SAAB Aerotech (Sweden; Associate Member) for 2017 have not yet been contributed. The regulations foresee that by non-payment until 1 September of the year following the issuing of an invoice/fee being due, the membership status “dormant” is invoked. As soon as the Membership fees are paid the status will be reverted to (Associate) Membership.

The General Assembly was also informed that the Membership status of the Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET) was reversed from *dormant* to Associate Member from 2 January 2018.

12. Members' activities – what's new?

It was agreed that instead of spending time at the General Assembly describing new activities, Societies are encouraged to send contributions for inclusion in the ems-message on everything that is new.

13. Agenda items for the General Assembly 2019

The following possible items were mentioned:

- Education, (as it was not discussed this time)
- Implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation and any related questions.

14. AOB

No other issues were discussed under this item.

15. Time and Place of next General Assembly

GA20.10 21st EMS General Assembly: The 21st EMS General Assembly will be held at the Lyngby campus of the Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, on Sunday, 8 September 2019. (Votes: 19:0:0).

The meeting opened at 14:30 and closed at 17:30.

ANNEX A: Decision by the 20th EMS General Assembly

- GA20.01 Approval of Bureau Report September 2017 – September 2018 (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2017 – September 2018.
- GA20.02 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer.
- GA20.03 Auditor appointment:** The General Assembly appointed Kanzlei für Wirtschaftsprüfung und Steuerberatung/ Accountancy and Tax Practice Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2018.
- GA20.04 Rules of Procedure GA:** The General Assembly rejected the proposal that Rule 2 of the *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly* be removed.
- GA20.05 Rules of Procedure GA - Nomination of a proxy:** The General Assembly approved to add the following new Rule 2b to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly:
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