

**21st EMS General Assembly**

8 September 2019

Lyngby, Denmark

Minutes, 25 October 2019

**adopted**

**Participants:** (voting representatives underlined)

Sabina Stefan (SMR, Romania)

Liz Bentley (RMets, UK)

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

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Sorin Cheval (ARMAE, Romania) - SMR voting for Romania

Jenni Evans (AMS President)

Akos Nemeth (MMT, Hungary)

Delfina Gil (AME, Spain) – AME voting for Spain

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)

Crystalla Papachristodoulou (CYMETA, Cyprus)

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

Panagiotis Nastos (HMH, Greece)

Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)

Bob Riddaway (EMS President)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Kornelija Spoler Canic (HMD, Croatia)

Irene Suomi (GS, Finland)

Pamela Emch (AMS, Harry Otten Board)

Paulína Valová (SMS, Slovakia)

Joanna Wibig (PTG, Poland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

25 participants

## 1. Opening of session

The President opened the 21st General Assembly by thanking the Danish Meteorological Society (DaMS) for hosting the EMS Annual Meeting 2019 in Lyngby and providing a warm welcome for participants. In particular he thanked the DaMS President and the entire local organising team for preparing an interesting side programme.

The presence of 17 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).

Jenni Evans, AMS President 2019, reported on the activities of the AMS during its centennial year. In particular it was recognised that the AMS membership has become more engaged in the process of the preparations for the centennial events. She also reported on the challenges the society faces; these included engaging with young scientists, taking a leadership role in building a resilient society, and making the AMS more inclusive and welcoming. Also issues connected with open access publishing of journals were raised and discussed.

## 2. Acceptance of Agenda, including early announcement of AOB

The Agenda was accepted as proposed.

One item for AOB was announced: Letter sent to Member Societies by the RMetS concerning the Sustainable Development Goals.

## 3. Minutes of the 20th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 20th session of the EMS General Assembly were distributed in October 2018 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 *GA21\_04*).

The EMS Annual Report 2018, detailing activities of the EMS in the previous year, was published online, distributed through the website in August 2019 and issued to all Member Societies and Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly. The Annual Report 2018 was presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council.

**GA21.01 Approval of Bureau Report September 2018 – September 2019 (*Entlastung*):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period *September 2018 – September 2019*. (Votes 17:0:0).

## 5. Report on decisions of the 41st Council Session held on 8 September 2019

The President reported on decisions of the Council related to (a) the Europhotometeo competition, including the additional prize money for the favourite photo voted by the public, (b) the Liaison Committee, including the future of the *ems*-message and the way forward to prepare a communications and social media strategy, and (c) the procedures to elect a new President in 2020.

The General Assembly was also informed about the following decisions and actions:

- ▶ The EMS Annual Meeting 2022 will be held in Bonn, Germany from 4 – 11 September 2022.
- ▶ A working group to develop the new strategic plan has been established.
- ▶ Publication of the *ems*-message will be suspended until a communications and social media strategy has been prepared.

- ▶ The EMS will open a new bank account.

For details please see the minutes of C41 at <https://www.emetsoc.org/about-ems/council/council-meetings/>

The EMS will be represented at the AMS Annual Meeting 2020 by the Chair of the EMS Media & Communications Team, Tanja Cegnar. She will give a presentation at the 48th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology. The EMS President plans to represent the EMS at the IFMS Global Meeting that will be held during the AMS Annual Meeting.

## 6. 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 *GA21\_06*).

## 7. Finance

### 7.1. Report of the Treasurer

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly in paper *GA21\_06\_Report-Treasurer*, including the Audit Report on the financial accounts 2018 (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA21\_07*).

**GA21.02 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer. (Votes: 17:0:0).

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2020 that had been agreed by the 41st Council Session. This included two changes from the original proposed budget.

- ▶ The increase of the budget for committees and teams by 5000€ to allow for a consultant to be contracted to help prepare a communication and social media strategy.
- ▶ The additional prize of 250€ for the favourite of the public voting of the Europhotometeo competition in 2020.

### 7.2. Appointment of the Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly that the Sozietät Dr. Broll Schmitt Kaufmann & Partner, Berlin/ Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Germany is contracted to conduct the audit of the EMS accounts 2019.

**GA21.03 Auditor appointment:** The General Assembly appointed the Sozietät Dr. Broll Schmitt Kaufmann & Partner, Berlin/ Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2019. (Votes: 17:0:0).

## 7. Break out groups to provide input to a new strategic plan

Paper *GA21\_08* contained a set of questions to be discussed by the break out groups. These questions were included in the invitation to the General Assembly. *GA21\_08* also identified some strategic issues about which the break out groups were invited to comment. The results of the deliberations of the

break out groups were recorded in writing and this information will be taken into account when preparing a new strategic plan.

## **8. Arrangements for electing a President and nominations for awards**

Arrangements for electing a new President and making nominations for awards were outlined in paper *GA21\_09*.

The 41st Council Session held on 8 September 2019 compiled the following desirable characteristics of future EMS Presidents.

- ▶ Has enough time available to engage in the office of a President
- ▶ Good leader/visionary; is a "figure" in the global scene
- ▶ Good chairperson
- ▶ Has a good network
- ▶ Able to connect to and engage with people
- ▶ Outreach capabilities
- ▶ Experience/proven ability of coordinating meetings (also remotely)
- ▶ Good presence in the room
- ▶ Good command of (business) English
- ▶ Well-connected in the community
- ▶ Is aware of the developments in the entire community (e.g. Global Weather Enterprise, all sectors and stakeholders)

Understanding of, and experience with, EMS was considered as a criteria, but challenged by the view that someone coming from the outside could also bring fresh ideas and impetus to the Society.

The Bureau (consisting of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer) will take the desirable characteristics into account when assessing suggestions for who should be the next President and making a nomination for consideration by Council at its 42nd Session.

The President outlined the Awards Programme with the typical deadlines and emphasized that it is important that Member Societies make nominations for these awards.

## **9. Council Composition**

As indicated in paper *GA21\_10*, after this session of the General Assembly, the term of two rotating Members on the EMS Council will end: Paul Halton as representative of IMS (Ireland) and Josep Tomas í Bosch as representative of AMACA (Andorra). The President thanked Paul Halton for his many contributions, queries and critical interventions during the last three years, in particular his commitment to make the EMS Annual Meeting in Dublin a success. Josep Tomas í Bosch, though elected to the Council, was unfortunately hindered in participating in the council sessions in person.

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

**GA21.04 New Council members starting in 2019:** The General Assembly elected the Slovak Meteorological Society (SMS), represented by Paulína Valová, for the term autumn 2019 – autumn 2022, and Jordi Mazon of the Associació Catalana de Meteorologia to represent the meteorological societies in Spain on the EMS Council from autumn 2019 – autumn 2021, with the Asociación Meteorologica Española appointing a representative from autumn 2021 – autumn 2022. (Votes: 17:0:0).

In spring, Ewen McCallum stood down as the RMetS representative on Council. The President thanked him for his contributions to the Council Sessions and his long membership of CoM. He is replaced by Shanti Majithia.

## 10. EMS Membership

Paper GA21\_11 outlined the situation concerning dormant membership, membership cancellations and new members.

The Executive Secretary reported that since the last General Assembly three applications for EMS Membership were received:

- ▶ Meteotechnology Laboratory LLC (Meteo Lab), Russian Federation, applied for Associate Membership in spring 2020; the application was accepted at the 40th Council Session (paper C40\_15; Council decisions C40.15).
- ▶ The Estonian Meteorological Society applied for Membership in July 2019 and the Danish Meteorological Institute applied for Associate Membership in August 2019. Both applications have been accepted at the 41st Council Session.

**GA21.05 EMS Membership:** The General Assembly welcomed the Meteotechnology Laboratory as new EMS Associate Member. (Votes: 17:0:0).

**GA21.06 EMS Membership:** The General Assembly welcomed the Estonian Meteorological Society as new EMS Member Society. (Votes: 17:0:0).

**GA21.07 EMS Membership:** The General Assembly welcomed the Danish Meteorological Institute as new EMS Associate Member. (Votes: 17:0:0).

The Secretariat reported that due to non-payment of membership fees for 2018 the status of the Associate Member AEMet (Spain) is *dormant* from 1 September 2019.

## 11. Agenda items for the General Assembly 2020

No specific items were suggested for the General Assembly 2020.

## 12. AOB

Liz Bentley explained the background to the letter sent to Member Societies by the RMetS asking for information about their awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Member Societies were encouraged to respond to the request even if they do little to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Some members of the General Assembly expressed concern about Council's decision to suspend publication of the ems-message. In response, it was explained that this decision was taken with some reluctance, and was based on the resignation of three member of the Liaison Committee (who do a lot of work in preparing the message) and the low readership of the ems-message.

*Post-meeting note.* The President decided that as an interim measure he would take responsibility for editing the ems-message so that it can continue to be published, at least until a communications and social media strategy has been prepared with the assistance of a communications expert.

### 13. Time and Place of next General Assembly

**GA21.08 22nd EMS General Assembly:** The 22nd EMS General Assembly will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia on Sunday, 6 September 2020. (Votes: 17:0:0).

The meeting opened at 14:00 and closed at 16:30.

### ANNEX A: Decision by the 21st EMS General Assembly

**GA21.01 Approval of Bureau Report September 2018 – September 2019 (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2018 – September 2019.

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