

**43rd Session of the EMS Council
Virtual Meeting
Starting at 14:00 (CEST) on 12 May 2020**

Minutes of 03 June 2020
adopted

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe the 43rd Session of the EMS Council was scheduled as an extra-ordinary meeting and held by video-conference.

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair Media and Communication Team)

Hilda Carr (ECMWF)

Mojca Dolinar (Chair Awards Committee)

Zoltan Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Kenneth Holmlund (EUMETSAT)

Bert Holtslag (NVBM, future President)

Sylvain Joffre (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)

Shanti Majithia (RMetS, United Kingdom)

Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)

Jordi Mazon (ACAM, Spain)

Panagiotis Nastos (EMTE, Greece)

Robert Riddaway (EMS President)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Paulína Valová (SMS, Slovakia)

Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)

The Session opened at 14:00h and closed at 15:30h.

Chair: Bob Riddaway, EMS President

Minutes: Martina Junge

1. Opening of the 43rd Session with the acceptance of the Agenda and declaration of Any Other Business

The EMS President opened the 43rd Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants.

With ten Council representatives present the necessary quorum of seven was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

At C42 it was agreed that the main purpose of this meeting is to decide on the arrangements for the EMS Annual Meeting 2020. Approval of the strategic objectives of the EMS has been included as part of Any Other Business. The agenda was accepted as proposed. **(Annex A)**

2. Arrangements for EMS2020

The EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) had provided a report on various options for the conference and their feasibility. The CoM recommended that a physical meeting should not take place. For the options of an online conference it provided pros and cons of the chat, webinar and live presentation variants, including tentative estimates of the financial implications of these options. CoM also provided a compilation of views of the EMS2020 PSC and convenors, who mostly recommended (a) not having an online conference via chat or webinar and (b) having live presentations if EMS wants to go for an online replacement. However, cancelling the entire event would also be acceptable to most of the people who were consulted.

The Chair of CoM emphasised that it is important that the Council looks at the balance of what needs to be invested for an online event and the potential benefits of holding such an event.

C43.01 EMS Annual Meeting 2020: The EMS Council decided to cancel the EMS Annual Meeting 2020, planned for 7–11 September 2020 in Bratislava. (Votes: 10:0:0)

The discussion of possible online options raised the following issues:

- Would an online session programme through chats alone be seen as an attractive model/approach?
- Would not offering any conference in any format carry the risk of losing the involvement of early-career scientists in future events, or damaging the reputation of the EMS?
- Would the effort of offering a real networking experience be justified by the expected outcome? In the autumn will people still be keen to participate in online meetings that cannot compete with networking in person?
- Could an alternative event be attractive for early-career scientists and at the same time give an opportunity for EMS to try something new?

Acknowledging the uncertainties and unknowns around these questions, most members of Council preferred not to have an online conference but instead offer an event on one day that is clearly targeted at early-career scientists; this could include some kind of online mentoring or a discussion about reducing the carbon footprint of the EMS conferences.

The decisions and tasks:

C43.02 EMS Annual Meeting 2020 arrangements: The EMS Council decided not to hold an online replacement of the EMS Annual Meeting 2020. (Votes: 9:1:0)

C43.03 Online event 2020: The EMS Council decided to hold a half-day or one-day on-line, interactive event in the week 7–11 September 2020, aimed primarily at early-career scientists. (Votes: 10:0:0)

Action 1: The CoM will develop a concept for an online event to be held in September and submit this to the EMS Bureau for approval.

Action 2: The CoM, together with Programme and Science and Committee, will start the planning of EMS2021 immediately. When making preparations it will need to be recognised that the situation in 2021 might be similar to that in 2020, and so concepts for a combined onsite/online or a pure online conference will need to be in place, including an assessment of their feasibility and financial viability.

3. Options for the next Council Session and General Assembly

With the conference in Bratislava cancelled, consideration was given to the time and place of the next session of Council.

Action 3: The Executive Secretary will arrange for the 44th Session of Council to be held in Berlin, Germany, if an on-site meeting is feasible, with 8–9 September 2020 being the preferred dates.

The EMS General Assembly is normally a two-hour event, and it is undesirable for ecological, financial and time-utilisation reasons for people to travel throughout Europe for such a short meeting. Thus the Assembly should be held either as a combined onsite/online event if an onsite Council meeting is feasible, or as an online event, directly following the Council Session in September 2020.

Action 4: The Executive Secretary will arrange for the 22nd EMS General Assembly to be held as either as a combined onsite/online event if an onsite Council meeting is feasible, or as an online event, directly following the Council Session in September 2020.

4. Any other Business

The Strategy Working Group (SWG: Bob Riddaway, Bert Holtslag, Sylvain Joffre, Saskia Willemse, Shanti Majithia, Dennis Schulze and Martina Junge) had an on-line meeting on 29 April 2020. After robust and constructive discussions, followed by a review of the outcome of those discussions, the SWG proposed four strategic objectives for the next strategic plan.

C43.04 Strategic objectives: The Council approved the following strategic objectives for the next strategic plan of the EMS:

- There is a forward-looking, responsive and cooperative European meteorological community that includes professionals from the academic, public and private sectors.
- The activities of Member Societies and Associate Members are promoted and supported to maximize the benefits and outreach of those activities.
- Meteorological information is well understood and considered to the maximum possible extent by users, policy-makers and the public.
- The EMS is an influential and well-run organization with effective governance and use of social platforms/networks, and the committed involvement of its membership.

(Votes: 10:0:0).

Action 5: The Strategy Working Group will prepare drafts of the sections dealing with the context and the role of the EMS before the September Council meeting. At the September Council meeting the activities required to fulfil the strategic objectives will be specified by Council.

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

Annex A: Proposed Agenda

Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions

Annex A: Proposed Agenda

1. Opening
2. Arrangements for EMS2020
3. Options for the next Council Session and General Assembly
4. AOB

Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions of the EMS Council at, 43rd Session, 12 May 2020

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