

**45th EMS Council Session**

3 February 2021

online Meeting, platform used: zoom

Minutes of 10 March 2021

**adopted**

**Participants:** (voting councillors underlined)

*Rune Andersen (DMI)*

*Meda Andrei (RMS, Romania, deputy representative)*

*Tanja Cegnar (Chair Media and Communication Committee)*

*Sorin Cheval (ARMAE, Romania)*

*Aaron Dantas (EMS Media Assistant)*

*Mojca Dolinar (Chair Awards Committee)*

*Bert Holtslag (EMS President)*

*Sylvain Joffre (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)*

*Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)*

*Pangiotis Nastos (EMTE, Greece)*

*Shanti Majithia (RMetS, United Kingdom)*

*Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)*

*Robert Mureau (Chair Technology Achievement Award selection committee)*

*Andrea Oestreich (EMS Assistant)*

*Marc Prohom (ACAM, Spain; meteo.cat)*

*Robert Riddaway (Chair Strategy Group)*

*Hans Roozkrans (KNMI, representing NMHSs)*

*Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)*

*Dennis Schulze (MetIQ, representing service providers)*

*Gert-Jan Steeneveld (NVBM, The Netherlands)*

*Paulína Valová (SMS, Slovakia)*

*Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)*

*Excused: Jordi Mazon (ACAM; represented by deputy M. Prohom)*

The Session opened at 14:00h and closed at 17:00h CET.

*Chair: Bert Holtslag, EMS President*

*Minutes: Martina Junge*

**1. Opening of the 45th Session**

The EMS President opened the 45th Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants. With ten Council members present the necessary quorum of seven was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

**2. Acceptance of Agenda and declaration of AOB items**

A proposal for the agenda was distributed in preparation of the Council meeting. The agenda was accepted (**Annex A**).

In autumn, a vote by correspondence was called on the approval of three new members of EMS Committee on Meetings. The decision is recorded in these minutes:

**C45.01 Membership of the Committee on Meetings:** The EMS Council approved the membership of Victoria Sinclair, Carola Detring and Peter Kalverla on the EMS Committee on Meetings 2020-2023. (Votes: 10:0:0).

### 3. Application Associate Membership MeteolQ

**C45.02 Associate Membership MeteolQ:** The Council approved MeteolQ as new EMS Associate Member. (10:0:0)

MeteolQ is assigned to the Associate Member group of Service Providers.

### 4. Report of the Committee on Meetings

The Chair of the Committee on Meetings reported on conclusions of the CoM and PSC on the format of the Annual Meetings and registration fees, including Abstract Submission Fees (paper *C45\_04\_CoM-report*) and highlighted the decisions required by the Council at this meeting.

### 5. Decision on the format of the Annual Meeting 2021

Taking into account the uncertainty about the pandemic situation into late summer, possible travel restrictions, restrictions and difficulties locally at the venue, the Council decided that the meeting has to be held as an online meeting only, to provide clarity at this stage.

**C45.03 EMS Annual Meeting Format 2021:** The Council decided that the EMS Annual Meeting 2021 will be held in an online format in September 2021. (10:0:0)

In the discussion the factor of increased costs for hybrid meetings – a likely option for 2022 – was considered. The interest in hybrid meetings needs to be gauged after the EMS2021 to decide on such a format for 2022. (**Action 1:** Include appropriate questions in the survey after EMS2021.)

Council did also follow CoM's suggestion to limit the conference to essentially one week, and keep the planned dates from 6 to 10 September 2021, with possibly a kick-off day on Friday before (or two half-days on Thursday and Friday) with strategic talks, welcome, icebreaker and other networking events, including special events addressing early career scientists.

#### **Session format**

Based on the draft concept developed by the CoM in collaboration with the PSC, convenors and the task force, Council considered various options, constraints, arguments and opportunities associated with options for

- the length of presentations,
- platform requirements,
- parallel sessions,
- live versus pre-recorded presentations, and
- interactivity.

Considerations provided by Council will be taken into account when refining the concept:

- EMS should seize the opportunity to experiment and try different formats, soliciting feedback on which formats work better than others. In addition to the options laid out by the CoM another possible format option could be:

→ Convenors summarize all (pre-recorded) presentations of a session, follow the pre-conference discussions on the contributions, and develop on that background (provocative) questions that will stimulate interesting discussions; the focus of such a concept is on the discussion.

The difference in formats would preferably be session-wise, not author-wise, so authors would not have the option to choose the way of presentation. However, authors' capabilities as to recording facilities/time should be accommodated as far as possible.

- Length of presentation: making a distinction regarding the length of presentations should be avoided, since otherwise it gives the impression that some presentations are worth more than others.
  - Allow one (or two) solicited (longer) presentation per session and all others are treated equal;
  - Having different length selected on the basis of the abstract may lead to reducing the opportunities for ECSs; also from that point equal treatment of all abstracts would be desirable.

The decision on the final format will be in the hands of CoM, PSC and its task force, and can only be made after the abstract submission has been closed and the number of submissions is known in May.

The President thanked the entire Committee on Meetings and the PSC members involved for their preparations and development of the concept.

## 6. Decision on the structure of registration fees

### a. Virtual Annual Meetings: Registration fees 2021

**C45.04 Annual Meeting 2021 registration fees:** The Council decided registration fees for the virtual EMS2021 as detailed in this table: (Votes: 10:0:0)

Categories	Booking times/	Virtual attendance: Week ticket	
		Early (€)	Standard (€)
Member 2021		190	230
Non-member:		210	250
Student member 2021:		90	120
Student non-member:		100	130

**C45.05 Annual Meeting 2021 Abstract Processing Fees:** The Council agreed to set the Abstract Processing Fees at €40 pre abstract. (Votes: 10:0:0).

**b. Future Annual Meetings: Structure of registration fees**

The proposal of CoM on registration fees for future onsite and hybrid meetings (*CoM\_04\_Report-CoM*, item 4b) was considered. The following points were raised:

- A difference between fees for members and non-members for day tickets should be introduced; also a clearer difference between member and non-member fees in general are advised.
- Additional costs for facilities and equipment for hybrid meetings need to be considered and reflected in registration fees;
- Introduction of reduced fees for retired members was suggested to be considered, though it appears not that simple how to define “retired members” without opening the doors for evading the standard fees that would normally apply (for example, the formal age of retirement varies considerably across Europe, etc.)

The Council thanked Sylvain Joffre and the other members of the Committee on Meetings again for their profound work and excellent report to prepare this session and decisions.

**7. Awards****a. Approval of revised Terms of Reference for the Young Scientist Travel Awards**

Considering that many of the 2021 conferences will be virtual, the Awards Committee made a proposal for changes in the Terms of Reference for the Young Scientist Travel Awards (paper C45\_06a\_ystas).

Council discussed the pros and cons of prescribing open access for publication of results through these awards:

- Some Universities already cover costs for publication in open access journals, so the prize would only partly support the ECS directly;
- An open access journal may not be available for the specific topic;

The majority still supported making open access mandatory for the award process and prize.

**C45.06 Terms of Reference Young Scientist Conference Award:** The Council agreed revised terms of reference including change of name to Young Scientist Conference Award as detailed in **Annex I**. (Votes: 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Mojca Dolinar and the other members of the Awards Committee for their work and timely proposal.

The Council also considered whether similar changes need to be made for the awards funded by the Tromp Foundation. The EMS Council confirms that it does not object to the re-definition of the Tromp Award and the Tromp Travel Awards for Young Scientists (as detailed in the agreement between EMS and the Tromp Foundation) to account for the virtual format of the conference, that has been agreed upon for the EMS2021; to the contrary, this is in line with the revision of similar EMS Awards to incorporate flexibility for different types of meeting formats.

**b. Approval of new chair of the Technology Achievement Award Committee**

Ben Dieterink has stepped down from the Chair of the committee due to personal circumstances. Ben has been a member and the chair of the selection committee for the Technology Achievement Award for 5 years, having been instrumental in launching the award and pushing towards recognition in the community. The President expressed appreciation of the EMS for his role in getting the award off the ground, as well as his initiatives to think about revisions and how the award could be made more popular and attractive.

**C45.07 Chair selection committee for the TAA:** The Council approved Robert Mureau as the chair of the selection committee for the Technology Achievement Award for a term of three years, until autumn 2023. (Votes 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Robert for taking on this responsibility and work on further developing the award and make it more widely known.

Shanti Majithia volunteered as a contact person in the United Kingdom to distribute the information and calls for submissions to his wide network in the energy sector and try to solicit application for the next round of the award call.

A new call to Member Societies will be issued to name contact points who would help to solicit nominations from their respective country (**Action 2**).

Council took note of the amended terms of reference for the Technology Achievement Award (**Annex II**).

**8. Report from the working group New Strategic Plan**

A report on the preparation of a new strategic plan was presented (part II – Annexes: paper *C45\_08\_Strategic Plan*). The Council was asked to provide guidance about the format and content of the draft strategic plan and what the Strategy Working Group needs to do to further develop the plan, specifically whether any of the 17 development priorities are not well-defined, if they are not clearly separable, or if there appear to be any missing. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- It was noted that the forecasters' community was not explicitly mentioned in the plan; however, there was consensus that the activities to address and involve the different parts of the community will be broken down in the implementation plan.
- Prioritising of activities will be implicitly taken into account in the development of the implementation plan, that will look at the targets, impacts, responsibilities and timeline of activities related to the different development priorities; it is expected that some of the activities will address different development priorities.

On the issue whether the EMS has the resources to work on all 17 development priorities the main outcome was that it appears obvious that these can only be implemented with a commitment primarily by volunteers, involving the network of Member Societies and their communities. As such it was suggested to rename 'development priorities' to 'development activities' and order them with decreasing priority.

The Chair of the Strategy Working Group, Bob Riddaway, asked all participants to send queries or suggestions about the specific wording of any aspect of the plan to him by Friday 5 February 2021 (**Action 3**).

In the preparation of the final Strategic Plan for the Council Session C46 the leaders of the four working groups will be involved.

The President thanked Bob for continuing to develop the Strategic Plan despite his term as President has ended and expressed his appreciation.

## 9. Communications plan

A report on the status with inviting a communications specialist to help the EMS define a communications strategy and develop an implementation plan was provided (paper *C45\_09\_communications*).

The following issues were considered:

- A communication plan will not be simply a part or annex of the strategic plan, but an important element to implement it.
- The target audience and what should be achieved through the outreach needs to be more clearly broken down as the basis for the development of the communication plan.

A small group involving the Executive Secretary, the Media Assistant, possibly the chair of the MCC will make a start at answering these questions to enable an informed discussion of Council. Sylvain Joffre and S. Majithia also volunteered to contribute (**Action 4**).

The report also suggested to commission a *RichPicture* as a means to communicate the strategic plan to the EMS Membership and enthuse volunteers to contribute to its implementation. In principle Council was supportive of this proposal; a final decision on the implementation will be based on financial estimates for the EMS annual budget after the size of the EMS2021 can better estimated.

## 10. Any Other Business

### **Secret votes at C46**

To have secret votes at an online (or hybrid) Council Session, it is necessary to prepare the electronic voting tool in advance. Therefore, it is proposed that the items on which votes at Council Sessions should be secret, should be agreed in advance as far as possible.

For the C46 Session on 22 & 23 March 2021, the decisions to select the Silver Medalist 2021 and the Technology Achievement Awardee 2021 are to be held as secret votes. Additional suggestions need to be communicated to the Executive Secretary by Friday 5 February 2021. (**Action 5**)

## 11. 46th Session of Council

It had already been agreed in autumn 2020 that also the 46th Session of Council will be held as an online meeting; the dates agreed were 22 & 23 March 2021, from 13:00 to 17:00 on 22 March (Monday), continuing from 9:00 to 13:00 on 23 March (Tuesday).

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

**Annex A: Agenda**

**Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions**

**Annex I: Terms of Reference Young Scientist Conference Award**

**Annex II: Terms of Reference for the Technology Achievement Award**

**Annex A: Agenda agreed by the EMS Council**

1. Opening
2. Acceptance of the Agenda and declaration of AOB
3. Application Associate Membership MeteolQ
4. Report of the Committee on Meetings
5. Decision on the format of the Annual Meeting 2021
6. Decision on the structure of registration fees
  - a) for future Annual Meetings
  - b) specifically, for virtual Annual Meetings
7. Awards:
  - a) Approval of revised Terms of Reference for the Young Scientist Travel Awards
  - b) Approval of new chair of the Technology Achievement Award Committee
8. Report from the working group New Strategic Plan
9. Report from the secretariat: contract Communications Specialist
10. AOB
11. Next Council Session: 22 & 23 March 2021

**Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions of the EMS Council at, 45th Session, 3 September 2020****List of Decisions**

**C45.01 Membership of the Committee on Meetings:** The EMS Council approved the membership of Victoria Sinclair, Carola Detring and Peter Kalverla on the EMS Committee on Meetings 2020-2023.

**C45.02 Associate Membership MeteolQ:** The Council approved MeteolQ as new EMS Associate Member.

**C45.03 EMS Annual Meeting Format 2021:** The Council decided that the EMS Annual Meeting 2021 will be held in an online format in September 2021.

**C45.04 Annual Meeting 2021 registration fees:** The Council decided registration fees for the virtual EMS2021 as detailed in this table:

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**C45.06 Terms of Reference Young Scientist Conference Award:** The Council agreed revised terms of reference including change of name to Young Scientist Conference Award as detailed in **Annex I**.

**C45.07 Chair selection committee for the TAA:** The Council approved Robert Mureau as the chair of the selection committee for the Technology Achievement Award for a term of three years, until autumn 2023.

## List of Actions

**Action 1:** In the discussion the factor of increased costs for hybrid meetings – a likely option for 2022 – was considered. The interest in hybrid meetings needs to be gauged after the EMS2021 to decide on such a format for 2022. (Action 1: Include appropriate questions in the survey after EMS2021.)

**Action 2:** A new call to Member Societies will be issued to name contact points who would help to solicit nominations from their respective country.

**Action 3:** The Chair of the Strategy Working Group, Bob Riddaway, asked all participants to send queries or suggestions about the specific wording of any aspect of the plan to him by Friday 5 February 2021.

**Action 4:** A small group involving the Executive Secretary, the Media Assistant, possibly the chair of the MCC will make a start at answering these questions to enable an informed discussion of Council. Sylvain Joffre and S. Majithia also volunteered to contribute.

**Action 5:** For the C46 Session on 22 & 23 March 2021, the decisions to select the Silver Medalist 2021 and the Technology Achievement Awardee 2021 are to be held as secret votes. Additional suggestions need to be communicated to the Executive Secretary by Friday 5 February 2021.



## **Annex I: Terms of Reference EMS Young Scientist Conference Award**

- *approved by the EMS Council at the 27th Session on 9 September 2012, Łódź, Poland.*
- *revised by the EMS Council at the 45th Session on 3 February 2021*

The EMS Young Scientist Conference Award (YSCA) is given to promising young or early-career scientists in order to support the participation in EMS-sponsored conferences and events and dissemination of results presented at these events, which may be physical meetings, virtual meetings using video conferencing tools, or hybrid events.

For meetings with physical attendance, the award shall consist of a certificate and prize money intended to cover registration fees and part of the travel expenses to the conference. For virtual events, the award shall consist of a certificate and prize money intended to cover registration fees and/or part or all of the page charges for publishing the results presented at the event in a peer-reviewed open access journal.

Students attending universities in European countries, full or part-time, and young scientists working in European countries are eligible for the award. All countries with an EMS Member Society or included in the WMO RA VI region are considered as European. Candidates shall be under 35 years on the first of January of the calendar year in which the award is made.

To be considered for a YSCA the candidate has to send an application to the EMS. Each application shall include a short curriculum vitae of the candidate, the abstract accepted/submitted for presentation at the conference, a supporting letter by a Member Society, EMS Associate Members or a supervisor or equivalent, explaining the achievements of the candidate and the relevance of the conference for her/his future career, and a proof of age.

Recipients of a Young Scientist Conference Award are considered and approved by the EMS Awards Committee.

The awardees are expected to provide a report on the conference for publication on the EMS Website until two weeks after the meeting.

The EMS Council assigns an annual budget for YSCAs; it lies within the remit of the Awards Committee to assign the number and monetary amount of conference awards to individual conferences. The EMS Awards Committee is entitled to approve specific procedures for the nomination and selection of candidates, in agreement with these Terms of Reference.

This award scheme is open for additional funding by Associate Members who may, with agreement by Council, allocate appropriate names to awards they fund through the EMS.

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## Annex II: Terms of Reference for the Technology Achievement Award

### 1. Objective of the award

The EMS Technology Achievement Award is granted to individuals or corporations in recognition of technological contributions associated with instrumentation and methodologies used in meteorology and related sciences (e.g. oceanography, atmospheric chemistry and hydrology) and their applications that have the potential for Europe-wide impact. Such developments could include

- Instrumentation,
- Observing systems and measurements,
- Data management and ICT Infrastructure: data acquisition, data handling, data analysis techniques, and algorithms,
- Information systems along with technological developments underpinning forecasting methods and validation/verification techniques.

### 2. The Award

The EMS Technology Achievement Award is awarded in the form of a certificate presented to the recipient during the award ceremony of the EMS Annual Meeting.

Depending on the type of nominations received, two Awards may be given: One Award for small organisations/projects; this is understood normally to be a group of up to 5 people. And one Award for large projects; this is understood to normally be a project of an institute, company, any other organisation or a project consortium.

### 3. Eligibility and nomination for the award

The award is granted to individuals, groups of individuals or organisations. Organisations are understood in a broad sense, including companies, institutions, associations, international organisations and projects.

EMS Member Societies and EMS Associate Members and their respective members or staff are eligible to make nominations for the EMS Technology Achievement Award. Individuals, groups of individuals or organisations are also eligible to submit a self-nomination for the EMS Technology Achievement Award, under the same conditions, explained in paragraph 4.

### 4. Nominations

A call for nominations is issued each year in autumn, with a submission deadline in January.

Submission is encouraged in two stages: Nominators are invited to submit an outline of the proposal until a deadline in late autumn. The outline proposal should present the key achievements in the form of an abstract (max 1 A4 page). The Selection Committee will provide a preliminary assessment of the proposal and guidance for the full submission to the nominators within 6 weeks. This stage is optional and not a pre-requisite for the submission of the full proposal.

In order to make a nomination the following documents need to be submitted:

**A Description of key achievements**, explaining the new aspects and innovation of an achievement, as well as any principle practical achievement and experiences with the technological solution.

Any principle papers, posters, books, patents related to the achievement or other

information which explains the exclusivity of the technological solution should also be included.

**Curriculum vitae and/or profile** of the organisation, corporate body or individual, not more than three A4 pages:

- The **Curriculum vitae (in case of an individual)** should contain the background of the Nominee and an overview of career, publications and other relevant information.
- The **profile (in case of an organisation or corporate body)** should contain background information about the corporate body as well as background information about the persons or teams involved.

Two **supporting letters** up to two A4 pages. More than three letters of support will not be considered.

A **Citation** of 25 words or less.

All documents and communications must be in English. Documents must be provided digitally in pdf format.

## 5. The selection process

A Selection Committee established by the EMS Council will evaluate the nominations and make a recommendation to the EMS Council. The final selection of awardees is the task of the EMS Council.

Non-selected nominations will be forwarded once to be considered again for the award in the following year. The documentation provided may be updated for the next call for proposals.

## 6. Presentation of the Award

Following the decision of the EMS Council, the winning organisation, corporate body or individual will be informed in due time in order to take part at the awards ceremony at the EMS Annual Meeting. The name of the winner will be made public to the media and in EMS publications.