

**24th EMS General Assembly**

4 September 2022

Bonn, Germany

Minutes, 18 October 2022

**adopted**

**Participants:** (voting representatives underlined)

Meda Andrei (SMR, Romania) - voting for Romanian EMS Member Societies

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS, Bulgaria) - voting for Bulgarian EMS Member Societies

Liz Bentley (RMets, UK)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Rainer Dominique, Vaisala

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Bert Holtslag (EMS President)

Damjan Jelic (HMD, Croatia)

Dick Blaauboer (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Martina Junge (EMS)

Christina Schnadt-Poberaj (SGM, Switzerland)

Monika Lakatos (MMT, Hungary)

Conor Lally (IMS, Ireland)

Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)

Guðrún Nína Petersen (VeF, Iceland)

Jordi Mazon (ACAM, Spain)

Ernesto Rodriguez Camino (AME, Spain) – AME voting for Spanish EMS Member Societies

Gert-Jan Steeneveld (NVBM, The Netherlands) until 13:10

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Clemens Simmer (DMG, Germany)

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Met. Section, Poland)

Dino Zardi (AISAM, Italy) – voting for the Italian EMS Member Societies

22 participants, 16 voting representatives

Chair of the Session: Bert Holtslag, President

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

## **1. Opening of session**

The President as the presiding officer opened the 24th General Assembly and thanked all participants of this Assembly for their participation at this first in-person session after three years.

Clemens Simmer, chairman of the German Meteorological Society DMG, one of the hosts of the impending EMS Annual Meeting in Bonn, did heartily welcome all EMS Members and participants and expressed his delight in hosting this conference together with the national weather service DWD and the University Bonn. He highlighted the stages from making the proposal until today with the conference hosting, and also the challenges, restrictions and difficulties along the way while the world was changing dramatically during these recent years. He underlined that the efforts that have been made for the hybrid format of this meeting will pay off as this will become the standard.

The presence of 16 nominated representatives of EMS Member Societies (15 voting members from 13:10) 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 the Agenda and declaration of AOB

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (**Annex A**).

## 3. Minutes of the 23rd EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 23rd session of the EMS General Assembly had been distributed in November 2021 to all participants. Revisions and corrections received within 30 days were included in the final minutes. Following the Rules of Procedure, the minutes are thus held adopted.

## 4. Report of the President on the activities of 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 *GA24\_04*).

The EMS Annual Report 2021 that details activities of the EMS in the previous year has been prepared by Council and was published on the website in July 2022 and issued to all Member Societies and Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly. The Annual Report 2021 was presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council. The President thanked everyone who provided contributions to the Annual Report.

He also shortly outlined the reasoning for the new changes to the terms of reference for Silver Medal nominations, and made everyone aware that a call for nominations of a candidate as EMS President to follow him next year will come up in autumn, and he asked all Societies to consider possible candidates.

An update was also provided on the development of the African Met Society AfMS, with RMetS supporting this by providing resources for training and development, and the Indian Met Society planning to actually deliver training and education. There is some momentum currently with COP27 taking place in Africa in November, providing the opportunity to raise the organisation's profile and to seek funding.

It was noted that it would be useful to continue to inform EMS Members about the existence of AfMS.

**Action 1a:** Include AfMS and link to their website on emetsoc.org;

**1b:** include valuable information on AfMS activities in the newsletter.

## 5. Verbal report about the outcome of the 49th session of Council

The 49th session of Council was held on Saturday, 3 September 2022 also as an in-person/hybrid meeting. The President reported on the following outcomes of the Council meeting:

- EPM: as outlined in the report of the secretariat (item 9) the EPM draws substantial human resources, and Council had agreed that changes in the terms should be made to simplify procedures for the licenses to use photos (i.e. move to cc licenses), and also streamline other procedures of the contest.

- EMS2022: the President mentioned the main plans for the starting EMS2022 in Bonn, and also the status of planning for future meetings.
- Strategic Plan: this was discussed intensively at Council, and was reported then later in this meeting under agenda item 12.

## 6. Financial Report

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly, including the Audit Report on the financial accounts 2021, information on the status of the accounts in June 2022 and the Budget for 2023 (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper GA24\_06).

Specifically, the Treasurer drew attention to the following:

- One major item of income is provided through the license fee from the EMS Annual Meeting: the virtual EMS2021 was rather successful; income from EMS2022 is not yet known at this stage, but given the registration numbers at this stage it is hoped that the income will result in a similar amount as in 2021.
- The accounts 2021 have been examined by the auditor appointed by the EMS General Assembly 2021; the audit report testifies that the revenue-and-expenses statement complies with the legal requirements as well as additional rules fixed in the EMS Constitution; payments made by the Society are supported by invoices or other vouchers, related to the association's purpose.
- The increase in Membership Fees as decided by Council at its session in spring has been implemented.
- The 2023 Budget of the EMS as provided to the GA was approved by the EMS Council at the 49th Session (on 3 September 2022). It is assumed that there will be an income of at least 72,000€ from the Annual Meeting in 2023.

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

## 7. Approval of the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial Report

Having heard the report of the Bureau and the Financial Report, the representative of the NVBM, The Netherlands, Gert-Jan Steeneveld, thanked the entire Bureau for their work to steer the EMS in these difficult times, and proposed to approve the Report.

**GA24.01 Approval of the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial Report (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial report, for the period since August 2021 (Entlastung). (Votes: 16:0:0)

## 8. Appointment of the Auditor for the accounts 2022

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 2022.

**GA24.02 Auditor appointment:** The General Assembly appointed the Sozietät Dr. Broll Schmitt Kaufmann & Partner, Berlin/ Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Germany, to audit the EMS accounts of the year 2022. (Votes: 16:0:0)

## 9. 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 *GA24\_09*). The activities were heavily focussed on preparing the first hybrid Annual Meeting of the EMS. But also support for all other committees and bodies is important, and in particular collaboration with the Bureau and President are vital for the running of the organisation.

Ge Cheng had started in March as new Media assistant of the EMS, has supported the EMS Executive Secretary in all social media activities, publishing the Annual Report 2021 and preparing presentation material for the EMS2022.

The President thanked all staff of the EMS Secretariat for their work and highlighted the vital role they play in supporting the activities of the EMS.

## 10. Memoranda of Understanding: formal procedures for implementation

Following questions raised at the last General Assembly in 2021 about the responsibility to approve Memoranda of Understanding, the EMS Council discussed this and came to the view that the procedure should be kept as is, i.e. the formal approval of MoUs should stay the responsibility of the Council and the General Assembly is subsequently informed. Nonetheless, the Council invited the General Assembly to discuss this question.

The subsequent discussion, exchanging pros and cons of both approaches, confirmed that the procedures should be kept as is, but that Members should be informed at an early stage about any agreements that are envisioned or developed with other organisations.

**GA24.03 Approval of Memoranda of Understanding:** The formal decision on approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with partner organisations is taken by the EMS Council.  
(Votes: 16:0:0)

## 11. Approval Rules of Procedure – Council

Council at its 48<sup>th</sup> sessions in spring 2022 adopted new Rules of Procedure to formalise and document a) the decision on how more than one Member Society from one country could share their representation on Council during the 3-year term and under which conditions this is possible, and b) the agreed procedure regarding statements on behalf of the EMS (Session C46). The amended Rules of Procedure for Council (Annex, new Rule 51 introduced; proposed changes in red), including a reformulation in rule 2, and shortening the pre-information period for votes by correspondence (Rule 50) were provided in paper *GA24\_11\_rop-council*.

**GA24.04 Approving the Rules of Procedure for Council:** The General Assembly approved the revision of the Rules of Procedure for the EMS Council as provided in **Annex C** which forms part of this decision. (Votes: 16:0:0).

## 12. Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024

The EMS Council had adopted the EMS Strategic Plan 2021-2024 in spring 2021 and also decided on an implementation plan for the Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024 (Minutes part II – Annexes: *paper GA24\_12*). The Vice-President presented a review of the implementation, achievements, and reassessment of priorities, including outcomes from the discussion at Council on the day before the GA24:

- As a JEMS launch is progressing and its importance becoming clear its priority has been increased to high;
- Instead of 4 working groups (for 4 objectives) there will be one monitoring group that consists of the Vice President, the chairs of existing EMS Committees and two or three more volunteers from Council or the EMS Members;
- It was noted that progress since the plan was approved was quite substantial and that this should be communicated to the public/the membership through a publication;
- A more in-depth discussion of the strategy will be scheduled for the Council Session C50 in spring 2023, addressing in particular
  - (i) the question of what is the long-term goal of the strategy (vision for the EMS),
  - (ii) a possible extension of the period covered by the strategy and
  - (iii) how should EMS develop its engagement with "lay-people" (term to be defined).

The main points raised during the discussion at GA are:

- The list of actions is still quite long and ambitious; further prioritising is advisable;
- For high priorities a fellowship can provide a doable approach with available funds; this approach is already taken with the employment of the current media assistant.
- Activities of interest to non-professionals: would need a clearer understanding which community is actually meant; various Member Societies have substantial activities aimed at amateur meteorologists, photographers, storm hunters; and the general view was that this is an important area the EMS should also put more emphasis on, in particular in the context of the Annual Meeting;
 

**Action 2:** The Committee on Meetings is tasked to find convenors who would organise (a) session(s) in relevant areas of non-professionals.
- The merging of the working groups into one group was welcomed, and interest was indicated, but it would be important to have more information on the terms for this group and in particular the time commitment that would be expected from them before nominating people.
 

**Action 3:** The Vice-President will put together short terms/information to be provided to the EMS Membership;
- Regarding objective 2 and the related activity to promote Member Societies' Webinars, the language issue was mentioned as it might probably not be of interest for people to join webinars of the Icelandic Met Soc which are entirely in Icelandic for example; however, it became clear that many of the webinars and online events of members are held in English or French anyway, so the important thing is that the EMS Secretariat is informed so the information can be put on the website and included in the newsletter.

## 13. The EMS Technology Achievement Award (TAA): how to increase the number of nominations

Dominique Marbouty as a member of the TAA committee gave a presentation about the history of the award and the type of projects and technologies that would fit the profile for the award.

Members were asked to consider projects and developments in their country/communities that could qualify for the award, and consider to submit a short proposal in autumn this year.

<https://www.emetsoc.org/awards/award-category/ems-technology-achievement-award/>

#### 14. Council Composition

As reported in paper *GA24\_14\_council-composition* (Minutes – part II), the term of two rotating Members on the EMS Council will end after this session of the General Assembly. The President thanked Jordi Mazon (ACAM, Spain) and Paulína Valová, (SMS, Slovakia) for their contributions and critical interventions during the last three years. In particular, their contributions to the preparations of the Annual Meetings planned for 2020 and 2021, though then cancelled/moved to virtual, were highly appreciated by the EMS. The Council agreed that the Slovakian Meteorological Society is invited to continue attending the Council Sessions as observer through its President Paulína Valová, until the EMS2023 in September 2023.

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

**GA24.05 New Council members starting in 2022:** This General Assembly decides to invite Joanna Wibig to represent the Polskie Towarzystwo Geofizyczne – Meteorological Section (PTG) and Ernesto Rodriguez-Camino to represent the Asociación Meteorológica Española (AME) on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2022 – autumn 2025. (Votes: 15:0:0)

#### 15. EMS Membership

The General Assembly took note of the termination of EMS Associate Membership of MeteoLab LLC and of MODEM, a manufacturer of upper air sounding equipment in France.

#### 16. Agenda items for the 25th General Assembly in 2023

The following item was proposed:

- Consider ways for EMS to make its operations climate neutral, and in particular the Annual Meeting.

#### 17. AOB

In general, it was found that there was a lot of information provided during this meeting, that was in parts rather new to some of the attendees, and appeared at the same time very interesting and some of it also very relevant to the Member Societies. It was noted that probably not all information that is distributed by the EMS to its Members is really passed on to the individual members of organisations, but any attempt/channel to better inform the community at large would be appreciated.

#### 18. Time and place General Assembly 25

It is planned to hold the 25th EMS General Assembly as an in-person meeting on the weekend before the Annual Meeting 2023 in Bratislava, Slovakia, i.e. on Sunday 2 September 2023.

The meeting opened at 11:00 am and closed at 13:20 hours.

**Annexes: Annex A: Agenda accepted**

**Annex B: List of decisions and actions GA24**

**Annex C: Rules of Procedure Council, as approved by GA24**

**ANNEX A: Accepted Agenda of the 24th EMS General Assembly**

1. Opening
2. Acceptance of the Agenda and declaration of AOB
3. Minutes of the 22nd EMS General Assembly
4. Report of the President on the activities of the Bureau
5. Verbal report about the outcome of the 47th session of Council
6. Financial Report
7. Approval of the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial Report
8. Appointment of the Auditor for the accounts 2021
9. Report of the Secretariat
10. Memoranda of Understanding: formal procedures for implementation
11. Approval Rules of Procedure
12. Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024
13. The EMS Technology Achievement: how to increase the number of nominations
14. Council Composition
15. EMS Membership
16. Agenda items for the 25th General Assembly in 2023
17. AOB
18. Time and place General Assembly 25

**ANNEX B: List of decision and actions by the 24th EMS General Assembly**

**GA24.01 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung):** The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial report, for the period since September 2020 (Entlastung).

**GA24.02 Auditor appointment:** The General Assembly appointed the Sozietät Dr. Broll Schmitt Kaufmann & Partner, Berlin/ Dipl.-Finw. Matthias Keil, Germany, to audit the EMS accounts of the year 2021.

**GA24.03 Approval of Memoranda of Understanding:** The formal decision on approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with partner organisations is taken by the EMS Council.

**GA24.04 Approving the Rules of Procedure for Council:** The General Assembly approved the revision of the Rules of Procedure for the EMS Council as provided in **Annex C** which forms part of this decision.

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**List of Actions**

**Action 1a:** Include AfMS and link to their website on emetsoc.org;

**1b:** include valuable information on AfMS activities in the newsletter.

**Action 2:** The Committee on Meetings is tasked to find convenors who would organise (a) session(s) in relevant areas of non-professionals.

**Action 3:** The Vice-President will put together short terms/information to be provided to the EMS Membership;



**Annex C: Rules of Procedure of the Council of the European Meteorological Society e.V. (EMS): - Changes approved by the EMS Council:**

- revised at the 24th Session of Council on 18 March 2011
- revised at the 38th Session of Council, approved by the General Assembly 02 September 2018
- revised at the 46th Session of Council, approved by the General Assembly 31 August 2021
- revised at the 48th Session of Council

*deleted text is marked as crossed out*

*new/replacement text in red*

Changes were made in the following two sections (marked bold, black):

**Composition of the Council**

Observers and experts

Convocation and agenda of sessions of Council

Quorum

Conduct of Debates

Publicity of Meetings

General Rules for Voting

Voting at Council

**Voting by Correspondence**

Minutes and Documents

Annual report to the General Assembly

Bank account

**Composition of the Council****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~~ **for the entire representation term**. In addition to the Representatives, the President will be a voting member of Council in case the person is not already a Representative. Members of Council are defined as either being a Representative or the EMS President; these are referred to as “member” with lower-case letter, to differentiate from Representative Member which refers to the Society represented on Council.

**Rule 3**

In addition to the provision of Rule 2, where a State has more than one Member Society and the Member Societies of that State have been elected by the EMS General Assembly to serve on the Council, the Member Societies in that State shall communicate to the Executive Secretary which Society (to be known as a Representative Society) shall represent all the Member Societies of that State in Council.

**Should this State wish to share this representation between two Societies, the Council may agree with it, applying the following guidelines:**

- **both the Representative and the Deputy need to commit to attend all Sessions during the full three-year term; and**
- **it is recommended that the changeover of representation is happening at half term, i.e. after one and half years.**

**Rule 4**

Member Societies which have not paid their subscription for the preceding year shall not be eligible for election to the Council, neither, if already elected, shall they continue to provide a Representative to serve on the Council, nor to nominate one of their members for election as an Officer of the EMS. However, individuals from such Member Societies already elected as Officers shall continue to serve for the period for which they were elected.

#### **Rule 5**

Membership of Council begins immediately following the General Assembly at which a Member is elected.

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### **Voting by Correspondence**

#### **Rule 50**

A vote by correspondence is a ballot in which votes are cast through electronic communication means; it 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~~ **10 days** earlier, so that members who wish to exchange views on the matter can do so before the invitation to vote is sent out.

#### **Rule 51**

In case that EMS is contacted for urgently supporting a statement on behalf of its Members, the Bureau will assess the statement as to its potential relevance and importance, as well as to issues being critical, and decide whether Council needs to be consulted (vote by correspondence) or the Bureau can take such a decision. In the latter case, Council members will be informed about the support provided on their behalf.

#### **Rule 51+1**

Voting by correspondence shall be conducted by the Executive Secretary. Any proposal submitted to a vote by correspondence shall be arranged so that independent questions are voted upon separately.

#### **Rule 52+1**

Votes by correspondence must be received exclusively by the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the date on which the invitation to vote was sent to Council Members. Votes received after that date, and votes circulated to others than the Executive Secretary alone, shall be considered invalid.

#### **Rule 53+1**

The quorum for voting by correspondence shall be the same as that required during a session of Council. If the number of replies received by the Executive Secretary during the period specified in Rule 53 does not reach the required quorum, the proposal shall be considered to be rejected; in that case it may, however, be re-submitted at the next session of Council.

#### **Rule 54+1**

A statement certifying the results of the voting by correspondence shall be established by the Executive Secretary. Unless instructed otherwise by the Council, the Executive Secretary shall retain the votes in

the form they were cast until the end of the subsequent General Assembly or session of Council, whichever is the later.

## **Rule 55+1**

The Executive Secretary shall communicate the results of a vote by correspondence to all members in the form of numbers of votes cast for and against and the number of abstentions, and a list showing the votes of individual members. Voting by correspondence shall not be secret and Rule 49 shall not apply to votes by correspondence.