

25th EMS General Assembly

3 September 2023

Bratislava, Slovakia & online

Minutes, 14 October 2023

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)

Svante Bodin (SMS Sweden) – online

Dick Blaauboer (Chair CoM)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Anastasia Christou (CY.MET.A) - online

Rainer Dominique, Vaisala Associate Member

Vesna Đuričić (HMD, Croatia) - online

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Bert Holtslag (EMS President)

Jadran Jurković (HMD, Croatia)

Martina Junge (EMS)

Monika Lakatos (MMT, Hungary) – from 10:50

Stella Kafka (AMS)

Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)

Umberto Modigliani (ECMWF) – online

Miloslav Müller (CMeS, Czech Republic)

Andrea Oestreich (EMS)

Marc Prohom (ACAM, Spain)

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

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Paulina Valova (SMS, Slovakia, EMS2023 hosts)

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Met. Section, Poland) – virtual 1 hour, then onsite

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

26 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 25th General Assembly and welcomed all participants, in-person and online.

Paulína Válova, chairperson of the Slovak Meteorological Society SMS, one of the hosts of the upcoming EMS Annual Meeting in Bratislava, did heartily welcome all EMS Members and participants to Bratislava and expressed their delight in hosting this conference together with the national weather service SHMU.

The presence of 16 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 the Agenda and declaration of AOB

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

3. Minutes of the 24th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 24th session of the EMS General Assembly had been distributed in September 2022 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.

Actions agreed/tasks assigned were essentially completed, however GA24-Action 2 for the Committee on Meetings (“... find convenors who would organise (a) session(s) in relevant areas of non-professionals.”) was not successful, or approaches not practical.

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 *GA25_04*) which included welcome addresses, chairing Bureau meetings and preparing the Council and General Assembly sessions this August/September.

The EMS Annual Report 2022 that details activities of the EMS in the previous year has been prepared by Council and was published on the website in July 2023 and issued to all Member Societies and Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly. This Annual Report has an entirely new structure, following the sections/objectives of the EMS Strategic Plan, and is publicly [available from the website](#). The President thanked everyone who provided contributions to this Report.

Dominique Marbouty shortly updated the assembly about the work of the Strategy Monitoring group, including developing new versions of the EMS vision and mission.

The General Assembly did welcome the new EMS Associate Members MicroStep-MIS, Slovakia, and Météorage, France. The cancellation of the Forskerforbundet, Norway, as an EMS Member Society was noted.

5. Verbal report about the outcome of the 51st session of Council

The 51st session of Council was held on Tuesday, 29 August 2023 as a virtual event. The President reported on the following outcomes of the Council meeting:

- EPM2024 will be launched this autumn; new committee members for the organising committee and the pre-selection committee have been approved; Andrea Oestreich (assigned as new chair of the organising committee) gave an update on implementation and preparations for the launch: a cc3.0 license is now the default when uploading a photo; the preparations of the system are far advanced: the competition will open for admission on 15 November.
- EMS Annual Meetings and CoM: The Chair of the CoM mentioned the main plans for the starting EMS2023, and also the status of planning for future meetings. EMS2025 will be held in September 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia. For venues for 2026, proposals are welcome. Also, CoM is continuing to develop the EMS sustainable meetings policy further and is looking for input from

the General Assembly (item 15: EMS Net Zero); further discussions about ideas to change the structure of meeting fees were shortly reported.

- A **Communicating Weather and Climate award** was approved by Council by vote-by-correspondence; this invites applications for work over all platforms, and replaces the Broadcast and the Media Weather Forecast Award; Members are asked to nominate good communicators for the award, recognition is important. It was noted that it is important to communicate the (simplicity of) the nominations process.
- JEMS: The President reported decisions of Council how to continue with the planned launch of a Journal of the EMS; negotiations about the contract are in progress; an editorial board was established, with Johannes Schmetz and Bert Holtslag co-chairing.

6. Financial Report

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly, including the Audit Report on the financial accounts 2022, information on the status of the accounts by the end of June 2023 and the Budget for 2024 (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA25_06 and GA25_06_annexII_EMS e. V. Audit report 2022*).

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 EMS2022 was rather successful; income from EMS2023 is not yet known at this stage. It is important to have reserves, as experience in the COVID pandemic (when the meeting had to be cancelled, costs had been caused but no income created) had shown.
- The accounts 2022 have been examined by the auditor appointed by the EMS General Assembly 2022; 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 2024 Budget of the EMS as provided to the GA was approved by the EMS Council at the 51st Session (on 29 August 2023).

Heinke Schlünzen's term as Treasurer will end in 2024 and she will not stand for a new term; thus, a new Treasurer will be needed.

The President thanked the Treasurer, Heinke Schlünzen, for her excellent work in preparing and presenting the accounts and the budget, and keeping the EMS finances in order.

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

Having heard the report of the Bureau and the Financial Report, Ernesto Rodriguez-Camino, the representative of the AME, Spain, thanked the entire Bureau for their work to steer the EMS in these challenging times, and proposed to approve the Report.

GA25.01 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 2022 (Entlastung). (Votes: 16:0:0)

8. Appointment of the Auditor for the accounts 2023

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 also the audit of the EMS accounts of 2023.

GA25.02 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 2023. (Votes: 16:0:0)

9. Report of the EMS Secretariat

The EMS Executive Secretary had prepared a report on the activities of the secretariat since the last General Assembly (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper GA25_09). As the majority of activities which were heavily focussed on preparing the Annual Meeting of the EMS, had already been reported and referred to in the prior reports, no additional information was given during the meeting.

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. Approval Rules of Procedure – Council

Council at its 50th sessions in spring 2023 adopted new Rules of Procedure to formalise and document the decision of the 24th General Assembly regarding the development of Memoranda of Understanding with other organisations.

GA25.03 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).

11. Council Composition

As reported in paper GA25_11_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 Gert-Jan Steeneveld (NVBM, The Netherlands) and Meda Andrei (RMS)/Sorin Cheval (ARMAE), representing Romanian Societies, for their critical interventions and important contributions during the last three years.

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

GA25.04 New Council members starting in 2023: This General Assembly elects the Hrvatsko meteorološko društvo (HMD) as representative Member on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2023 – autumn 2026. The Council member will be Vesna Đuričić. This General Assembly elects the Cyprus Meteorological Association (CY.MET.A.) as representative Member on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2023 – autumn 2026. The Council member will be Anastasia Christou. (Votes: 16:0:0)

Permanent Members: After this Session, Shanti Majithia who represented the RMetS on the EMS Council since 2019, is succeeded by Derek Swannick who will become the RMetS General Secretary on 1st October 2023. The Members thanked Shanti for his important contributions to the Council work and in particular in taking on the role of liaising with the IFMS, and within that also supporting the establishment of the regional African Meteorological Society (AfMS), conveying experience and expertise gained in the European community with the development of such an association.

12. IFMS: regional representative for Europe on the IFMS Council

A short introduction about the IFMS, its structure and relevance for EMS, as well as a summary on the tasks on the IFMS Council was given by Liz Bentley.

IFMS like EMS have a Council and an annual Assembly, usually alongside the AMS Annual Meeting, but it was also held alongside the EMS Annual Meetings twice during the last decade; Council meetings take place as virtual meetings (of roughly 1 hour), 4 times per year.

Liz Bentley has been representing Region VI (Europe) on the IFMS Council for 10 years, and is now stepping down; of the 6 other EMS Societies which are also members of the IFMS, none made a proposal for a representative. Thus, the EMS as an IFMS founding member, will take steps to ensure a representation of Europe on the IFMS Council.

The person representing EMS/Europe would not need to be on the EMS Council, but report to Council about the sessions.

13. EMS net zero

Liz Bentley presented a discussion paper with key questions that were subsequently discussed in smaller groups: Should the EMS be making a pledge to become net zero? What would be the opportunities, and the challenges?

Compilation of outcomes from the 6 working groups (in no particular order under each heading):

1) Pledge

- All 6 groups: yes, EMS should make a commitment to become net zero;
- By what date? This was not widely discussed by the groups but it was suggested that it should be earlier than the 2050 target that aims to meet the Paris Agreement.

2) Opportunities:

- Common goal of all EMS Members, opportunity to work together on a common goal;
- Setting an example, also being asked for by ECS; also setting a reference; creating a positive image by clearly demonstrating commitment;
- Science based evidence and opportunity to promote research across Europe;
- Role model for all societies: use the net zero strategy of EMS (once existent) as role model for all Members.

3) Challenges:

- Collecting emissions data;
- Communications across all societies;
- Do we have to consider all Scope 1-2-3 emissions: energy production, energy consumption, the value chain? Direct emissions are easier to manage; remain practical when it comes to indirect emissions (Scope 3);

- How to set up the reporting, so it is straightforward and easy to do; see the limits;
- The largest emissions created by the Annual Meeting, and most emissions are through travel of participants; but are we responsible for those as participants are likely to report these as business travel emissions with their institute? energy demand and food are large factors too, but with different venues each year not everything is under EMS' and Copernicus' control; choice of venues needs to include requirements to reach the net zero target;
- The world is not yet set for net zero (but will be: more and more universities/venues also want to get net zero, so choices will become available in time);
- Reduction or offsetting? And cost of offsetting;
- Options might include reducing the number of meetings? Virtual meetings instead? Keep venue the same each year. There was little or no support for these options;
- Setting milestones in addition to the goals; reporting about milestones achieving is important;
- What is clean energy?
- What is included in the EMS footprint?
- Precise inventory, to make a commitment, and think about measures how to implement this.

Summary: The outcome of discussions was a strong yes, the EMS should make a pledge.

Action 1: Based on this discussion, Liz Bentley – the incoming President – will draft a paper to Council for the next meeting, how to approach this and how to get there, including suggestions on collecting benchmarking data.

Further discussions:

- It is important to communicate this pledge early on, and also the achievements along the way. Set an intermediary target and a net zero target date;
- Proposal: create an EMS certificate for travelling by train for more than 6 hours;
- Keep in mind that many schemes offering compensation do effectively not contribute to reduction or recapturing of emissions;
- We do not start at zero: the EMS already has a sustainable meetings policy, and some data/information about the Annual meeting should already be possible to be reported;
- The prospective publisher of the planned EMS Journal should be queried about a commitment – and plan – to make their production net zero;
- The pledge – and its implementation – should become part of the strategic plan.

14. How to improve exchange of experience between the EMS Members?

After a short introduction by Dominique about exchange in the past and the associated challenges, a number of proposals were discussed:

Ernesto Rodriguez-Camino, AME, proposed to **hold regular online meetings/webinars** where exchange between members, in between the General Assembly and Annual Meeting, can be organised on a regular basis; he reported on the experience of AME (Spain) with the main activity to hold an annual conference and the challenge how to ensure exchange between individual members in between: regular online meetings with varied content like presentation of books, results from the AME photo competition, discussion of hot topics are well frequented now by AME members; similarly, EMS could organise one-hour webinars on monthly basis for a start;

Discussion:

- Joint breakfast meeting: with 2x15-minute presentations also work well;
- Finding a joint topic of interest is important – net zero was suggested, for example; it shouldn't be “we do that and that at our society”;

- A group should be established, that has the responsibility to plan and arrange the programme for the meetings;
- Secretariat needs to provide the infrastructure.

Action 2: Start a webinar series with an in-advance defined number of sessions; collect a couple of presentations; and evaluate after this first season the experience; then decide whether to go ahead and develop the next series of webinars. Responsibility still has to be clarified.

Miloslav Müller, CMeS, proposed to develop a **multilingual vocabulary of meteorological terms**. As a starting point, a list of English terms will be compiled and connected with such of other languages; this was also a welcome proposal for a common activity, and it was noted that this would also serve society at large.

Discussion points:

- Problems in terminology in different languages and the vagueness in terms in different languages were noted, and the compilation should address these as well; it was also noted that hydrology and meteorology have a different understanding of the same term sometimes, but it was felt it would be a too wide field to address this issue as well;
- There are a number of terminologies etc in various of the Member countries one can build on; also the AMS has a glossary, which is currently translated into Spanish (12000 terms);
- We need volunteers to support this activity; this can not be the work of the secretariat;
- Action: set up a group of people from different countries to work on this.

Action 3: Miloslav Müller will draft a short text to inform and invite all Member Societies to this activity; the message will be distributed by the secretariat.

Other proposal:

- SMS, Sweden, has English webinars; this could be open to invite members from all EMS Societies; This was welcome, and all Members are asked to provide information about their webinars to inform the wider EMS membership about these opportunities;
- Proposal from Romania: create a platform, chat forum to discuss about what is happening weather wise in each country.

In summary it was stressed that new actions can only work if volunteers from Societies take the implementation in their hands.

15. EMS 25-year anniversary in 2024

The EMS was formally established in Norrköping, Sweden, in 1999 and will have the 25th anniversary in 2024. Ideas how to celebrate this anniversary were collected:

- Video/self-explaining slides about the history of the EMS, the present and the vision (incl. net zero)
- Certificate about coming to the meeting by train;
- Inviting all former Presidents;
- History about how many students the EMS has supported;
- Connection of conference theme with 25-year anniversary ("*The role of weather and climate research in the achievement of a climate-neutral Europe*")
- Digital EMS timeline;
- Sweden might have a role, as the establishment was formalised in Sweden;
- Invite weather services to contribute to this;

- Flag with (new?) logo;
- The first volume of the new EMS journal could be an anniversary special issue by invitation only.

16. Agenda items for the 25th General Assembly in 2024

- See items 14 and 15;
- Reporting on JEMS.

17. AOB

- Proposal from SMR Romania: establish a new award to highlight organisations that have developed a plan how to get to net zero.

This was the last Assembly that was chaired by Bert Holtslag as EMS President; his term is ending with the last day of the Annual Meeting at the end of the following week. The Vice-President Dominique Marbouty highlighted Bert's important role in moving forward the establishment of the Journal of the EMS, which is in the final stages of being launched: it is hoped that this will become a new flagship for the EMS, in addition to the Annual Meeting. It was also much appreciated that Bert will continue to help getting this Journal to a good start as one of two co-Chief Editors. The Members thanked Bert for his important contributions over the last three years.

18. Time and place General Assembly 26

It is planned to hold the 26th EMS General Assembly as an in-person meeting on the weekend before the Annual Meeting 2024 in Barcelona, Spain, i.e. on Sunday 1 September 2024.

The meeting opened at 10:00 am and closed at 14:00 hours.

Annexes: Annex A: Agenda accepted

Annex B: List of decisions and actions GA25

Annex C: Rules of Procedure Council, as approved by GA25

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 24th EMS General Assembly
4. Report of the President on the activities of the Bureau
5. Verbal report about the outcome of the 51st 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 2023
9. Report of the Secretariat
10. Approval Rules of Procedure – Council
11. Council Composition
12. IFMS: regional representative for Europe on the IFMS Council
13. EMS Net Zero

14. How to improve exchange of experience between the EMS Members?
15. EMS 25-year anniversary in 2024
16. Agenda items for the 26th General Assembly in 2024
17. AOB
18. Time and place General Assembly 26

ANNEX B: List of decision and actions by the 25th EMS General Assembly

GA25.01 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 September 2022 (Entlastung).

GA25.02 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 2023.

GA25.03 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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This General Assembly elects the Cyprus Meteorological Association (CY.MET.A.) as representative Member on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2023 – autumn 2026. The Council member will be Anastasia Christou.

List of Actions

Action 1: Based on this discussion, Liz Bentley – the incoming President – will draft a paper to Council for the next meeting, how to approach making a net-zero pledge as EMS and how to get there, including suggestions on collecting benchmarking data.

Action 2: Start a webinar series with an in-advance defined number of sessions; collect a couple of presentations; and evaluate after this first season the experience; then decide whether to go ahead and develop the next series of webinars. Responsibility still has to be clarified.

Action 3: Miloslav Müller will draft a short text to inform and invite all Member Societies to contribute to the development of a multilingual vocabulary of meteorological terms; the message will be distributed by the secretariat.

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, approved by the General Assembly on 4 September 2022
- revised at the 50th Session of Council, approved by the General Assembly on 3 September 2023

Changes were made in the following section (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

Section Annual report to the General Assembly**Rule 60**

The Council shall make a Report, including an audited financial report, to each annual General Assembly.

Rule 61

The Council is authorized to establish committees and other subsidiary bodies as it sees fit, subject to overall financial constraints decided by the General Assembly. The Rules of Procedure of these subsidiary bodies should be broadly consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Council and the General Assembly. Nomination of the chairperson of the subsidiary body is subject to approval by Council. Subsidiary bodies shall, wherever possible, carry out their proceedings by correspondence.

Rule 62

The Council is authorized to approve Memoranda of Understanding with partner organisations. Whenever possible, Members should be informed at an early stage about any agreements that are envisioned or developed with other organisations.

Rule 63

Travel and subsistence expenses of persons attending sessions of Council, and meetings of subsidiary bodies established by the Council, shall normally be borne by their own Societies.

Rule 64

Bodies established by the Council shall submit annual reports, including financial reports if appropriate, to the Council.

Rule 65

Unless otherwise specified by the Constitution, by a General Assembly or by the Council, the Rules of Procedure applicable to the General Assembly apply to the proceedings of any bodies set up by either the Assembly or by the Council.