

26th EMS General Assembly

1 September 2024

Barcelona, Spain & online

Minutes, 18 October 2024

– adopted –

Participants: (voting representatives underlined)

Meda Andrei (SMR, Romania)

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

Liz Bentley (RMetS, UK)

Dick Blaauboer (Chair CoM)

Daniele C. Berro (SMI Italy)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Sorin Cheval, ARMAE - voting for Romanian EMS Member Societies

Carola Detring (EMS)

Rainer Dominique (Vaisala Associate Member)

Vesna Đuričić (HMD, Croatia) – online (voting until 15:00, subsequently by J. Jurković)

Aina Maimó Far (IMS, Ireland)

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Paul Halton (IMS, Ireland)

Jadran Jurković (HMD, Croatia), from 15:00

Martina Junge (EMS)

Stella Kafka (AMS)

Erhard Källen (SMS Sweden) – online; from 14:35

Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)

Jordi Mazon (ACAM, Spain)

Luca Mercalli (SMI, Italy) – online; from 15:00

Miloslav Müller (CMeS, Czech Republic) – from 15:20

Csilla Németh (MMT, Hungary)

Andrea Oestreich (EMS) - online

Manuel Palomares (AME, Spain)

Marc Prohom (SMC, Spain)

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

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Johannes Schmetz (JEMS Editor-in-Chief)

Francesca Ventura (AIAM) – voting for the Italian EMS Member Societies

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Met. Section, Poland)

Dino Zardi (AISAM, Italy)

31 participants, 15 voting representatives

Chair of the Session: Liz Bentley, President

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of session

The President as the presiding officer opened the 26th General Assembly and welcomed all participants, in-person and online.

Jordi Mazon, chairperson of the Catalonian Met Society ACAM - in the name of all the hosts the upcoming EMS Annual Meeting 2024 - did heartily welcome all EMS Members and participants to

Barcelona and expressed their delight in hosting this conference. Fans specially prepared by ACAM were distributed for participants to cope with the humid weather to be expected for the week.

The presence of 14 (15 from 15:20) 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: rejection: abstention).

2. Acceptance of the Agenda and declaration of AOB

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (**Annex A**).
No AOB points were announced.

3. Declaration of conflict of interest

All General Assembly attendees were asked whether any conflict of interest existed with respect to any of the issues to be discussed and decided on this agenda.

No conflict of interest was declared.

4. Minutes of the 25th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 25th session of the EMS General Assembly had been distributed in September 2023 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.
No further comments were made on the minutes.

5. Report of the President on the activities of the Bureau and Annual Report 2023 of the Council

The President reported on her activities and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council since the last General Assembly (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA26_05*) which included leading the contract negotiations related to the journal JEMS, meeting with collaborating organisations, chairing Bureau meetings and preparing the Council and General Assembly sessions this August/September.

Dominique Marbouty shortly updated the assembly about the work of the Strategy Monitoring group, including developing new versions of the EMS vision and mission, that has been approved by the EMS Council at its Session on 20 August:

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) is a non-profit organization operating under its constitution approved by the General Assembly of its Member Societies.

Our vision: *Together as a European meteorological network to benefit society.*

Our mission *is to benefit society at large through the broad expertise network of the EMS community, focussing on collaboration at the European level and support of national Member Societies. We facilitate this by providing annual meetings and other fora to enable the exchange of ideas and broadening of networks in meteorology, climatology and related fields; publishing journals and reports; issuing statements; supporting the advancements of early-career scientists; and rewarding major achievements in our domain.*

The EMS Annual Report 2023 that details activities of the EMS in the previous year has been prepared by Council and was published on the website in July 2024 and issued to all Member Societies and

Associate Members as part of the documents for the General Assembly. The President thanked everyone who provided contributions to this report, and specifically thanked Martina for collating and finalising the report.

6. Verbal report about the outcome of the 53rd session of Council

The 53rd session of Council was held on Tuesday, 20 August 2024 as a virtual event. The President reported on the following decisions and outcomes of the Council meeting:

- Elected Joanna Wibig as new Treasurer of the EMS.
- Tasked the President to negotiate a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Meteorological Society, and to come back at a future Council session for approval.
- Approved the Vision and Mission statement.
- Approved new members of committees for awards, meetings, technology achievement award.
- Approved a new Member Society (Norwegian Geophysical Society) and a new Associate Member (Campbell Scientific Limited).
- Took decisions on a Net Zero pledge and the webinar series (see related agenda items 10 and 14).

The General Assembly did congratulate Joanna as the new Treasurer, and welcomed the Norwegian Geophysical Society as new Member Society and the new Associate Member Campbell Scientific.

The Chair of the CoM shortly summarized the preparations for the EMS Annual Meeting 2024 in Barcelona.

7. Financial Report

The Report of the Treasurer was provided to the EMS General Assembly, including the Audit Report on the financial accounts 2023, information on the status of the accounts by the end of May 2024 and the Budget for 2025 (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA26_07 and GA26_07_AnnexII_AuditReport-EMSaccounts2023*).

Specifically, the Treasurer drew attention to the following:

- One major item of income is provided through the license fee from the EMS Annual Meeting; income from EMS2024 is not yet known at this stage, but the expected participant numbers are rather high so the budgeted income is likely to be reached. The Treasurer stressed that 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 2023 have been examined by the auditor appointed by the EMS General Assembly 2023; 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 Treasurer reported a correction of the 2025 Budget of the EMS (as provided to the GA in the document) with respect to the income from the JEMS license fee.

The Treasurer also reported on the updated EMS travel rules, approved by Council at C53, to bring them in line with a pledge to become Net Zero (agenda item 10) and prioritize travel by train for those on EMS mission, whenever possible.

As mentioned, Heinke Schlünzen is not available for a further term as Treasurer and the Council had elected Joanna Wibig, Poland at its recent session.

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

8. 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.

GA26.01 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 2023 (Entlastung). (Votes: 14:0:0)

9. Appointment of the Auditor for the accounts 2024

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 2024.

GA26.02 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 2024. (Votes: 14:0:0)

10. EMS Pledge to Net Zero

Following the initiative of the GA in 2023 and further steps of Council and in particular the President, a specific proposal for a pledge and a transition plan were presented.

The discussion focussed mainly on the impacts of the EMS Annual Meeting on the footprint, how to account for and address participants' travel, even though it is not a mandatory requirement to include this in the footprint calculation for the EMS.

It was pointed out that actions taken should be beneficial on a local level.

GA26.03 Make a pledge to Net Zero: The General Assembly approved that the EMS makes a pledge to Net Zero by 2040, with intermediary targets of 33% reduction by 2030 and 66% reduction by 2035, relative to the baseline year of 2023. (Votes: 14:0:0)

GA26.04 Collect and publish Emissions data: The General Assembly approved that the EMS reports annual emissions data in the EMS Annual Report (Votes: 14:0:0)

GA26.05 NetZero transition plan: The General Assembly approved the NetZero transition plan as detailed in **Annex B**. (Votes: 14:0:0)

Action 1: To implement the transition plan, the following actions (with different time scales) are required over the next 12-18 months:

- Announcement of pledge is prepared for EMS2024 including article for website and social (President) Sept 2024
- Implement sustainable transport policy from 2025 onwards (Secretariat) Jan 2025
- President to join Strategy Monitoring Group (SMG) and SMG to integrate net zero transition plan into the strategic plan before C54 (President / SMG) March 2025
- Collate emissions data for 2024 and include any additional data that has been collated during 2024 in preparation to include in Annual Report for 2024 (Copernicus / Secretariat / President) June 2025
- Develop a net zero budget item during 2025 to be included in 2026 budget onwards (Treasurer / President) Aug 2025
- Develop Communication Plan for Net Zero for approval at C55 (President / Secretariat) Aug 2025

- Collate information about energy, waste and water efficiency measures to inform EMS operational activities and share with members at EMS 2025. (President) Sept 2025
- Host a webinar about our net zero pledge and transition

The General Assembly thanked Liz Bentley for leading this initiative and developing the actions and proposals.

11. Report of the EMS Secretariat

The General Assembly saw the premier of the EMS@25 & Welcome video that included welcome addresses of the hosts of the EMS2024 and many interviews with people that were involved with EMS activities over the last quarter of a century; the video was developed by Carola Detring who had joined the EMS, mainly to support the preparations of the EMS Annual Meetings, as part-time assistant in February.

The report of the secretariat reported also on the main further activities (Minutes part II – Annexes: paper *GA26_11*): the year had been quite busy with additional projects like supporting the launch of JEMS, the running and organising of the new EMS Webinar series, activities related to the 25-year anniversary of EMS and managing the EPM photo competition in addition to the planning the EMS2024. 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.

12. Report on the launch of JEMS

Johannes Schmetz, one of two Editors-in-Chief of the new Journal of the EMS, reported on the launch and the progress with JEMS. The inaugural editorial had just been published; two special issues (SI) are in the planning with first papers already submitted:

- a) SI as tribute to late Prof. Ehrhard Raschke who has been a pioneer in Earth-Radiation-Budget research. Clemens Simmer acts as guest editor for this SI.
- b) SI on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the EMS. A guest editor for this SI is being recruited.

Council and Members are kindly requested to consider submitting papers for this special issue.

Johannes Schmetz explained the type of papers that are expected for this Journal – research papers, overview papers, as well as papers on European and global international activities in the fields of weather and climate, including atmospheric composition and hydro-meteorology – and invited all to come and speak to the editorial board members during the session at the EMS2024. He asked support from participants to promote the Journal and encourage submissions.

The General Assembly thanked Johannes Schmetz, Gert-Jan Steeneveld and the entire editorial board for their commitment to get JEMS established and known in the community.

13. Council Composition

As reported in paper *GA26_13_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 Gudrun Nina Petersen (FIV, Iceland) and Tanja Cegnar (Slovenia), for their critical interventions and important contributions during the last three years.

The Annual Meeting 2025 will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The term of representative of the Slovenian Meteorological Society, Tanja Cegnar, ends with this General Assembly. Following the criteria for

Council composition (Host society of an upcoming EMS Annual Meeting), Tanja Cegnar who is also leading the local organising for EMS2025, is invited to attend the Council also in the coming year (in addition to her role as chair of the Media and Communication Committee).

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

GA26.06 New Council members starting in 2024: This General Assembly elects the Svenska Meteorologisk Skälskapet (SMS) as representative Member on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2024 – autumn 2027. The Council member will be Erland Källén. This General Assembly elects the representatives of the Societies in Italy, Societa Meteorologica Italiana (SMI), Associazione Italiana di AgroMeteorologia (AIAM), Associazione Italiana di Scienze dell’Atmosfera e Meteorologia (AISAM), Societa Meteorologica Alpino-Adriatica (SMAA), to be represented on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2024 – autumn 2027. The Council member will be Francesca Ventura (AIAM), the deputy representative Dino Zardi (AISAM).
(Votes: 15:0:0)

Permanent Members: Representatives of the Permanent Members of météo et climat and RMetS continue to represent their Societies.

Heinke Schlünzen represented the DMG since 2011, and filled the office of the EMS Treasurer with passion since 2015. She is now giving up her representation of DMG on the EMS Council. DMG has nominated Jörg Steinwagner as new representative.

14. EMS Webinar series

Ernesto Rodriguez-Camino reported on the progress and experience with the first EMS Webinar events, and that the Council had decided to continue the project for another year, after which its success should be evaluated; for this, measures of success should be developed.

GA26.07 EMS Webinar series: The General Assembly agreed to extend the webinar series for 12 months. (Votes: 15:0:0)

Breakout groups discussed the resources needed and ideas for topics and speakers.

The results of the working groups were collected in a plenary, and based on that the Webinar working group will develop a new programme for the next series of webinars. The GA in 2025 will evaluate the experience again and decide on the future of the initiative.

15. Terminology project revisited

A year ago, the General Assembly agreed to start a terminology project. Miloslav Müller had drafted a short text to inform and invite all Member Societies to this activity, which was then distributed by the secretariat to all Members.

However, not enough interest was aired and M. Müller did not have the time to push the project, nor had the secretariat.

The General Assembly had the view that the project would still be very useful; a number of people volunteered to contribute – Miloslav Müller (Czech Republic), Jordi Mazon (Spain), Joanna Wibig (Poland), Meda Andrei (Romania) and Csilla Nemeth (Hungary) – to develop a concept of what could be feasibly done.

16. Agenda items for the General Assembly 27 in 2025

The following additional topics were suggested:

- Communication
- Sharing best practices

17. AOB

No items were raised.

18. Time and place General Assembly 27

It is planned to hold the 27th EMS General Assembly as an in-person meeting on the weekend before the Annual Meeting 2025 in Ljubljana, Slovenia: Sunday, 07 September 2025, This was the last EMS Body meeting, that Heinke Schlünzen attended and of course actively contributed as to so many other sessions since 2011. With a commitment and dedication that is really remarkable and outstanding. This was marked by awarding Heinke the Once – Special Recognition Award. Citation: *for her long-term outstanding contribution as the EMS Treasurer, support to the wider activities of the EMS, and ensuring a strong financial foundation for the Society.*

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

Annexes: Annex A: Agenda accepted**Annex B: List of decisions and actions GA26****Annex A: Accepted Agenda of the 26th EMS General Assembly**

1. Opening
2. Acceptance of the Agenda and declaration of AOB
3. Declaration of conflict of interest
4. Minutes of the 25th EMS General Assembly
5. Report of the Bureau and Annual Report 2023 of the Council
6. Verbal report about the outcome of the 53rd Session of Council (20 August 2024):
7. Financial Report
8. Approval of the Report of the Bureau, including the Financial Report
9. Appointment of the Auditor for the accounts 2024
10. EMS Pledge NetZero
11. Report of the Secretariat
12. Report on the launch of JEMS
13. Council Composition
14. EMS Webinar series
15. Terminology project revisited
16. Agenda items for the General Assembly 27 in 2025
17. AOB
18. Time and place General Assembly 27: Sunday, 07 September 2025, Ljubljana, Slovenia

ANNEX B: List of decision and actions by the 26th EMS General Assembly

GA26.01 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 2023 (Entlastung).

GA26.02 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 2024.

GA26.03 Make a pledge to Net Zero: The General Assembly approved that the EMS makes a pledge to Net Zero by 2040, with intermediary targets of 33% reduction by 2030 and 66% reduction by 2035, relative to the baseline year of 2023.

GA26.04 Collect and publish Emissions data: The General Assembly approved that the EMS report annual emissions data in the EMS Annual Report.

GA26.05 NetZero transition plan: The General Assembly approved the NetZero transition plan as detailed below.

Transition plan

- a. Transition to Renewable Energy [2040]:** The EMS will aim to source 100% renewable energy for its operations, including office, home working and events, where possible. Venues that can offer 100% renewable energy should be prioritised. The aim would be to transition to renewable energy by 2040.
- b. Energy, Waste and Water Efficiency Measures [2030]:** The EMS will collate information to introduce energy, waste and water efficiency measures. This information will be shared with its members to promote a culture of energy and water conservation and waste management. The aim would be to collate this information before EMS2025 and share widely at the event.
- c. Sustainable Meetings Policy [2024]:** The EMS already has a Sustainable Meetings Policy – this should be reviewed **every** two years and updated accordingly.
- d. Sustainable Transport Policy [2025]:** In addition to EMS's Sustainable Meetings Policy, the EMS should encourage the use of sustainable transportation options for travel, share sustainable hotel options and publicise remote access opportunities. As such, the EMS will only reimburse flights for those on an EMS mission and awardees if the train travel times to the same location would be 24 hours or more. It will be mandatory to collect emission statements for travel of staff and all on EMS mission, including also for all participants of the Council sessions and the General Assembly. The EMS should choose to optionally report emission data for conference participants alongside the information that encourages more sustainable transport options.
- e. Sustainable Publishing Policy [2040]:** The EMS will work with its publishers to develop net zero strategies for its publishing activities. Elsevier has a net zero target of 2040.
- f. Green Procurement Policy [2030]:** The EMS will implement a green procurement policy that prioritizes suppliers and vendors with strong environmental and ethical practices. This includes selecting products and services with lower emissions, sustainable sources and that adhere to environmental certifications. The EMS already prioritises the list suppliers and their associated costs and has focused conversations with those suppliers with the highest emissions, namely Copernicus. The EMS will continue to work with suppliers to achieve a 2040 net zero target. The Green Procurement Policy will be in place by 2030 although the net zero target relating to this activity will be 2040.
- g. Circular Economy Practices [2030]:** The EMS will adopt circular economy practices by prioritizing and promoting the c2c (Cradle to Cradle), recycling and reuse of materials and minimizing waste generation.
- h. Stakeholder Collaboration [2025]:** Collaborate with stakeholders, including EMS Members, scientific organizations, government agencies, and private sector partners, to share knowledge, best practices, resources, and foster a collective commitment to climate action. The EMS might aim to foster a culture of sustainability among EMS Members through education and engagement activities

and promoting research and development initiatives that contribute to climate solutions and advance the understanding of climate-related issues.

- i. Financial Commitment to Net Zero:** In collaboration with Treasurer, the EMS will develop a net zero budget item to be included as part of financial planning. This could include estimates of resource and expertise to collate data, for changes and improvements required, for training and knowledge sharing, and for any carbon offsetting required.
- j. Communication Plan [2024]:** The pledge will be announced at EMS2024 and other EMS communication channels. The EMS will develop a long-term communication plan that publicises its net zero pledge and related activities to clearly demonstrate its commitment. The communication plan will include ways to share knowledge, best practice and promote research across Europe, providing EMS Members with an opportunity to work together on a common goal. The EMS may wish to advocate on climate change and engage with experts and collaborate with other from across the community in raising awareness and being an authoritative voice about climate science providing clear messages that are impactful, effective and evidence-based.
- k. Offsetting Policy [2030]:** While efforts to reduce emissions are essential and should be the main course of action, the EMS will also consider the role that offsetting will have on reaching its net zero goals. Factors that will be considered are the cost of offsetting to the EMS and finding credible and verifiable carbon offset projects.
- l. Embed into EMS Strategy [2025]:** The EMS will integrate the net-zero pledge into its overarching strategy and ensure that sustainability becomes a core principle in decision-making processes, governance structures, and long-term planning. Delivery of this Net Zero Transition Plan depends on effective and transparent governance. Sustainability needs to be embedded across the EMS and must become the lens for decision-making to ensure we can move forwards as a sustainable organisation. The EMS has a well-established governance structure that consists of Council, the General Assembly and Committees.

GA26.06 New Council members starting in 2024: This General Assembly elects the Svenska Meteorologisk Skälskapet (SMS) as representative Member on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2024 – autumn 2027. The Council member will be Erland Källén.
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GA26.07 EMS Webinar series: The General Assembly agreed to extend the webinar series for 12 months.

List of Actions

Action 1: To implement the transition plan, the following actions (with different time scales) are required over the next 12-18 months:

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