

**56th EMS Council Session**

5 – 6 March 2026, Ingolstadt & online

Minutes of 29 April 2026

adopted

**Participants:** (voting councillors underlined)

Liz Bentley, EMS President

Dick Blaauboer (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair Media and Communication Committee)

Anastasia Christou (CY.MET.A., Cyprus) – online

Carola Detring (EMS Meetings Coordinator)

Vesna Đuričić (HMD, Croatia) – online

Rainer Dominik (Vaisala, representing group of manufactures Ass. Members) – online

Elody Fluck (EUMETSAT, Associate Member observer) – online

Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)

Erland Källén (SMS, Sweden)

Willie McCairns (EUMETNET; Observer National and regional weather services) – online

Umberto Modigliani (ECMWF; Associate Member observer) – online

Robert Mureau (chair TAA committee) - online

Csilla Nemeth (HungaroMet; Observer National and regional weather services) – online

Mario Pereira (APMG, Portugal) – online (Thursday)

Miguel Potes (APMG, Portugal) – online (Friday from 9:45)

Florence Rabier (guest; EMS President-elect)

Patricia de Rosnay (ECMWF; chair Awards Committee) – online (Thursday)

Johannes Schmetz (co-Editor-in-Chief JEMS) – online (Thursday)

Dennis Schulze (MeteoIQ, Associate Member observer service providers) – online

Gert-Jan Steeneveld (co-Editor-in-Chief JEMS) – online (Thursday)

Jörg Steinwagner (DMG, Germany; EMS Vice-President)

Derek Swannick (RMetS, United Kingdom)

Jean-Noël Thépaut (Météo et Climat, France)

Fabio Venuti (ECMWF; Associate Member observer) – online (Friday)

Francesca Ventura (AIAM, representing all Member Societies from Italy) – online

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Met. Section, Poland; EMS Treasurer)

The Session opened at 14:00 (CET) on 5 March 2026, adjourned at 17:00; re-convened at 9:00 (CET) on 6 March 2026 and closed at 12:00h (CET).

Chair: Liz Bentley, EMS President

Minutes: Martina Junge

## 1. Opening of the 56th Session

The EMS President opened the 56th Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants to this meeting. With ten (10) Council representatives present (nine on Friday between 9:00 and 9:45) the necessary quorum of seven was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

Jörg Steinwagner as the local host welcomed the participants of the meeting to the historic town of Ingolstadt, and the special venue of the Georgianum where the meeting was held. The speaker of the mathematical institute of data science and machine learning, Prof. Götz Pfander, provided a

warm welcome and underlined that the institute is proud to host the EMS Council at their historic venue of the University of Ingolstadt.

## 2. Acceptance of the Agenda, declaration of conflicts of interest and declaration of AOB

A proposal for the agenda was distributed with the invitation to attend the Council meeting. The agenda as provided was accepted (**Annex A**), with items 7 and 10.4 taken forward due to the reporting chairs only being available on Thursday.

All Council members and participants were asked whether any conflict of interest existed with respect to any of the issues to be discussed and decided on this agenda.

- Florence Rabier noted a conflict for agenda item *Election EMS Officer* and will leave the room during the consideration of this agenda item (8)
- Willie McCairns (EUMETNET; Observer National and regional meteorological services) left the meeting for the selection decision of the winner of the Technology Achievement Award (10.3)

Other than that, none of the Council participants declared any conflict of interest.

Nothing was declared for AOB.

## 3. Implementation of decisions taken at the 55th Session of the EMS Council

*Paper provided: C56\_03\_implC55decisions (part II – Annexes)*

The draft minutes of the C55th Session of the EMS Council had been distributed to all participants of that meeting. Revisions that were submitted to the Executive Secretary within four weeks after distribution have been implemented after review by the President. The minutes were subsequently held adopted (Rules of procedure 58.2) and distributed to EMS Members; they are available from <https://www.emetsoc.org/about-ems/council/council-meetings/>.

It was noted that many of the items are picked up again at this meeting.

## 4. Report of the Bureau

*Paper provided: 53\_04\_report-Bureau (part II – Annexes)*

The EMS President reported on her activities since the last Council Session which included various activities in the run-up, during and after the Annual Meeting in Ljubljana, many administrative tasks, but also representing the EMS at various events, signing an MoU and chairing the Bureau meetings in preparation of this session. She also summarized important outcomes and developments from the Bureau meetings that took place, in particular regarding the concept for the further development of the structure of the EMS secretariat:

Specifically, the Bureau meeting in December 2025 focussed on two items: preparation of this Council Session 56, with issues related to the agenda, and discussions on the transition of staff in the EMS secretariat over the next 2 to 3 years, including approving changes to contracts. In particular, the following items were specifically addressed.

- With the transition of chairing the SMG from Dominique Marbouty to Jörg Steinwagner, the fuller monitoring, usually part of the spring council, would be shifted to the next Council session.
- The Bureau considered the nomination received for the office of the next EMS President and is delighted to propose to Council to elect Florence Rabier as EMS President 2026 – 2029 (agenda item 8).

- Memoranda of Understanding: The Bureau did review existing MoUs and those in development/close to signing; it also discussed that Council should take ownership of the management of MoUs and makes a proposal under agenda item 13.
  - Re-assignment of Associate Member groups (see item 14).
  - Europhotometeo: Based on an assessment by the secretariat on workload and issues connected with a new framework for the management of the competition, the Bureau is suggesting that the EPM continues to be managed by Andrea Oestreich and run with a two-year cycle. For the detailed proposal see agenda item 12.
  - Continuation of the item communication at the next General Assembly was considered.
- EMS2026 registration fees were decided at the Bureau Meeting in January 2026.

A short communication about further work of the Strategy Monitoring Group was given by Jörg Steinwagner: It is becoming increasingly important for Europe to protect its (intellectual) assets, which are often funded by European taxpayers and companies and customers. As a European organisation and a key contact hub for meteorological societies, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and private weather companies, the EMS may need to address this issue strategically within the existing set of established strategy guidelines.

**Action 1:** Council members interested in supporting such a development are invited to contact Jörg directly with their ideas how to take this forward.

## 5. Report of the Treasurer

*Paper provided: C56\_05\_Report-Treasurer (part II – Annexes)*

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2025, together with the income-expenditure statement by the tax advisor, detailed the Membership fees 2026 according to rules set out by Council for Member Societies and Associate Members, and discussed potential updates of the EMS Budget 2026. In summary:

- The balance of the EMS accounts in 2025 was negative; assets decreased by 24,284.45€. The available funds by the end of 2025 amounted to 322,218.45€.
- The income-expenditure statement was compiled and the tax declaration for 2025 submitted through the tax advisors of Schomerus & Partners mbH Berlin.
- Free Reserves of the EMS stay at 346,700.61€ for 31 December 2025; no amount could be added due to the negative balance of the accounts for 2025.
- The change in the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) was +2.3%.  
Membership Fees 2026 of Member Societies will be 1,576€ /individual member;  
Membership Fees 2026 of Associate Members will be 255 € (up to 10 employees) / 510€ (11-20 employees) / 765€ (21-30 employees) / 1025€ (31-40 employees) / 1280€ (more than 40 employees) / 6140€ (Permanent observers).
- Budget 2026: The Treasurer explained the proposed amendments with respect to Salaries (reduction in expected payments for salaries since more detail on working hours and the associated costs are known now), Publications, and Banking charges.

Council took note of Membership Fees 2026.

**C56.01 Budget 2026:** The Council approved the revised EMS Budget for 2026 as provided in **Annex C.** (votes: 10:0:0)

The President thanked the Treasurer, Joanna Wibig, for her work in preparing and presenting the accounts, and keeping the EMS accounts buoyant.

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

On behalf of the Council, Derek Swannick thanked the Bureau for their important work and proposed to approve the Report of the Bureau including the Financial Report.

**C56.02 Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report:** The Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report. (votes: 10:0:0)

## 7. Report of the Secretariat

*Paper provided: 56\_07\_report-secretariat (part II – Annexes)*

The Executive Secretary reported on activities and current issues addressed within the secretariat. This included:

- Re-distribution of work within the secretariat (in particular with respect to the EMS Annual Meetings preparations).
- Statistics of EMS outreach activities during 2025.
- Video production of EMS2025 presentations.
- Update on the Webinar series 2026 <https://www.emetsoc.org/events/ems-webinars-series/>
- Considerations on the emissions reporting structure.

**Action 2:** The Council in principle agreed to the outline for the emissions reporting structure; the SMG is tasked to provide the detailed report to Council at the next session.

## 8. Election EMS Officer

**C56.03 Election EMS President:** The Council elected Florence Rabier, Météo et Climat, France, as EMS President for a three-year term starting on 11 September 2026.

Florence Rabier accepted the election.

## 9. Report Committee on Meetings

*Paper provided: C56\_09\_report-CoM (part II – Annexes)*

The Chair of the Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee, conclusions from the EMS2025, preparations for EMS2026 and other relevant issues related to future annual meetings, including a proposal for the venue of EMS2028, and a change in membership of the Committee on Meetings.

### **EMS2026, Utrecht, The Netherlands:**

The plenary sessions schedule will be similar to EMS2025: panel – awards – strategic lecture on Monday afternoon, and keynotes on Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday afternoons. An interactive tool (slido, mentimeter) will be used to allow wide participation of the audience in the Q&A and select the most popular questions.

It was noted that the costs for the overall conference might still be higher than anticipated; with the impact that despite the adjusted fees this year, the overall income from the licence fee might be less than anticipated for the EMS Budget.

### **EMS2027, Kraków, Poland:**

PSC2027: The Programme and Science Committee (PSC) for EMS2026 will continue to work also for EMS2027, the main changes that will occur are due to representatives of past meeting hosts will leave, and hosts of the upcoming meeting will join the PSC.

**C56.04 Programme and Science Committee EMS2027:** The Council approved the composition of the PSC as provided in **Annex D**. (votes: 10:0:0)

**EMS2028:**

Site visits took place at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology at University of Zagreb and reported to Council. The venue looks appropriate and the hosts are keen to finally host the EMS Annual Meeting in Zagreb.

**C56.05 Venue EMS2028:** The Council approved the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, as venue for the EMS2028, with the dates 10-15 September 2028. (votes: 10:0:0)

Discussion on further planning of conference venues:

- Are Nordic countries missing out?
- How can we consider Emissions vs. location choosing?

**Action 3:** Derek Swannick and Jörg Steinwagner will analyse the country statistics with respect to likelihood of attendance dependent on the location of the venue.

**Membership Committee on Meetings:**

The term of ECS member Alice Portal has ended. Following a call for nominations to the EMS Membership, Kristína Szabóová (Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, SHMÚ) was proposed by the Slovak Meteorological Society, with a very committed statement by the nominee on her ideas to develop the ECS activities.

Looking for specific expertise in the AI and open data area, Roope Tervo from EUMETSAT, convenor at the EMS for many years, expressed interest to contribute to strategic development of the Annual Meetings. Based on his profile and expertise the CoM is proposing to approve him as a new member of CoM as well.

**C56.06 CoM membership:** Council approved the membership Kristína Szabóová as ECS member and Roope Tervo as member of the Committee on Meetings until spring 2029. (votes: 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Dick Blaauboer and the other members of CoM for continuing to develop the Annual Meetings in terms of their relevance, quality and scope, and taking on board all the new challenges.

## 10. Awards

### 10.1. Media Awards

The relevance of the Media Awards is to provide examples of good practice. The call this year has a deadline of 5 May for all three Media awards. The chair is asking Members to think of good candidates and nominate them, in particular for the Journalistic and Outreach awards, taking into account the (fast) developments of the communication landscape and social media.

The Media & Communications Committee (MCC) made a proposal for the composition of the Media award selection committees 2026.

**C56.07 Media Awards selection committees:** The Council approved the composition of the 2026 selection committees for the Outreach & Communication Award, the Communicating Weather & Climate Award and the Journalistic Award as detailed in **Annex E**. (votes: 9:0:0).

**Action 4:** Tanja Cegnar is asked to consider early career scientists in the succession planning for the Media & Communication committee and also the selection committees.

### 10.2. Tromp Foundation awards

Tanja Cegnar reported on the awards funded by the Tromp Foundation (TF) for scientists to attend the EMS Annual Meetings.

Council took note of the awardees 2025 and appreciated the continued support by TF through the awards funded by the foundation.

### 10.3. Technology Achievement Award (TAA) 2026

Robert Mureau presented the considerations of the TAA selection committee that led to the proposal to assign the TAA 2026 to Windy. This reasoning was seconded by a number of Council members.

**C56.08 EMS Technology Achievement Award 2026:** The Council selected the weather app Windy.com to be recognised with the Technology Achievement Award 2026, with the following citation: *Windy.com is an all-in-one weather app for those who make crucial weather-related decisions. The app provides in-depth weather insights for the whole world.* (votes 9:0:0)

General questions about the award were raised and discussed:

- It has been underlined that the award is about achievements, so some impact of nominated projects needs to be clearly demonstrated.
- It has been clarified that in principle two awards can be given each year: for small teams/projects and large projects and organisations.

The committee would like to enlarge its membership to include s.o. from the south, and also a young scientist. It was suggested to look among projects that recently received the award.

**Action 5:** Investigate whether an “electronic badge” for EMS Awards winners or similar could be provided to awardees with the suggestion to highlight these on their website, also to promote EMS awards.

Council thanked Robert Mureau and the entire committee for their considerate evaluation and proposals.

### 10.4. Silver Medal

*This item was discussed on Thursday afternoon*

**C56.09 EMS Silver Medal 2026:** The Council selected Markus Repnik to receive the EMS Silver Medal 2026, and approved the following citation: *Markus Repnik receives the EMS Silver Medal for his outstanding impact on the European meteorological community through the creation and leadership of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), enhancing Europe's role in sustaining global surface-based observations that are essential for modern weather prediction.*

#### Discussion:

The Awards Committee reported that the evaluation and decision process this year proved particularly challenging due to the very different nature of the nominated candidates and their merits, going simply by the selection criteria as outlined in the terms (Criteria I: Service to the European meteorological community // Criteria II: Outstanding contributions to increase and

enhance the public understanding of relevant meteorological aspects and issues // Criteria III: Scientific contributions to meteorology and related fields.)

The committee eventually had opted for taking a wider view and assess “distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe”, rather than weighing or prioritising the three selection criteria. Thus, the committee wondered: has Council any advice for updating the selection process and/or any of the selection criteria?

Specifically, for future awards the AC asked advice from Council and to clarify whether nominees should be assessed strictly against each individual criterion or evaluated more holistically, considering their distinguished contributions to and impact on the development of meteorology in Europe.

The summary of the ensuing discussions was that Council reaffirmed that the overall objective the Silver Medal is “**to highlight distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe**” as clearly stated at the website: <https://www.emetsoc.org/awards/award-category/ems-silver-medal/> should be the main guiding aspect in the evaluation.

The Council noted that the three criteria should serve as guidance for the overall assessment rather than being seen as mandatory criteria with equal weight; the criteria are intended to support the evaluation process but should not all be considered compulsory.

It was suggested keeping the three criteria unchanged, while softening the introductory wording to make clear that they are not all mandatory.

**Action 6:** The Awards Committee is tasked to propose revised wording of the terms to reflect this intention.

The Council thanked all award committees for their thorough and in-depth work and evaluations within the awards programme and selection processes.

## 11. JEMS – Journal of the European Meteorological Society

*This item was also discussed on Thursday afternoon.*

*Paper provided: C56\_11\_Report\_JEMS-Editors-in-Chief (part II – Annexes)*

Johannes Schmetz provided details about submission and publication numbers since the launch of the journal, the special issues, the composition of the international advisory board (17 high-ranking scientists from around the world), and challenges with the production process:

- JEMS has now been indexed in the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) (<https://doaj.org/toc/2950-6301>), which is a first step towards a wider visibility.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> volume of JEMS has been opened. 4 papers have been published, including two meeting summaries and one inaugural address. Vol. 4 already contains 4 published papers.
- Statistics suggest that it has been very important to solicit and invite submissions to JEMS by contacting potential authors directly. This is still the case at this stage.
- Recent statistics on the numbers of citations of the published papers are promising.
- The International Advisory Board (IAB) has been enlarged with an outstanding list of high-profile members of the global community. The membership and profiles are available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-the-european-meteorological-society/about/editorial-board>; suggestions to enlarge the scope to specifically address challenges and perspectives are currently implemented.
- Authors will receive discounts of 25% on the fee in 2026 and 2027.

- The editors in chief, associate editors and authors have reported several challenges with the editorial system of Elsevier and with the production department. To smoothen the workflow, monthly online meetings have started with the journal manager, production manager, and general manager of the journal.
- A JEMS promotion-event at the EMS2026 in Utrecht is in the planning; the Editorial Board and some of the IAB members will meet.
- A workshop for ECS on how to publish papers will be organised in collaboration with Elsevier.
- Plans for the Special Issue of JEMS on 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUMETSAT: seven papers are planned, all published before the EUMETSAT meeting early September 2026; reviewers may be requested from among Council members.

**Call to Action 7:** All EMS Council members to submit new ideas to the Editors-in-Chief on how to enhance the visibility of JEMS.

Discussion:

- Based on the good progress with the citations the process for indexing may be sped up; two years of production is required.
- In connection with the country statistics, a question was raised about the percentage of papers from European organisations.
- It was considered that it might be useful to follow up the initial invite letters to various organisations: at the appropriate level (programme managers etc).
- Replicate KMS paper in JEMS?
- Carbon emissions related to JEMS should be kept in mind; Elsevier's journey to NetZero by 2040 is aligned with the EMS pledge.
- AI is now in place in support with figure titles; also an AI tool for provision of paper summaries is installed on the journal pages. It is important to be transparent about its use.

## 12. EPM

**Management:** Council discussed the management structure of the EMS photo competition Europhotometeo (EPM) based on the proposal by the EMS Bureau (paper: *C56\_12\_europhotometeo*)

**C56.10 Management EMS Europhotometeo competition (EPM):** The Council approved the following:

- Continue the EPM with a two-year cycle.
- Keep Andrea Oestreich as the manager of the competition.
- Start the next competition in autumn 2026 (EPM2027).

**Succession planning:** It is envisaged that Andrea Oestreich manages the competitions EPM2027 (start autumn 2026), EPM2029 (2028) and EPM2031 (2030), and the latter competition will then be used to train a successor for a hand-over.

**C56.11 EPM2027 – Organising Committee:** The Council approved Andrea Oestreich (EMS; lead), Petra Grasse (DMG, Germany) and Eugenio Arenas (AME, Spain) as the EPM2027 organising team. (votes: 10:0:0)

**Terms EPM2027:** Based on the terms for EPM2024, Council discussed required changes and additions, related to AI-generated or modified photos, and payment modalities for payment of prizes.

Discussion: two controversial issues were raised with respect to the terms:

- a) Should AI-generated photos be excluded entirely from the competition?

- b) Should the exclusion from the evaluation of photos from two countries mention be kept in the terms?
- a) AI generated photos:
- AI-generated photos: if labelled AI, it is art.
  - But it is about the person creating a photo; AI-generated work would not qualify as a “photo”; however, EMS should keep EPM as **photographic** competition. So fully AI-generated work should not be allowed.
  - Excluding AI principally is too general, as for example each photo software today includes AI-tools: the need to develop criteria on “how much” AI is acceptable was recognized.
- b) Is the exclusion of photos from Russia and Belarus still appropriate?
- Listed are only these specific ones; given the current instability of the world, there may be a need to update each year.
  - Excluding countries outside Europe would be seen as weird.
  - Various people suggested to keep the wording and add the formulation on sanctions, mainly concerned about Europe, as proposed in the paper.

Voting process: The Council first voted on the terms as proposed but excluding the two controversial issues; then separately on the issues a) and b) mentioned above:

**C56.12 EPM2027 – Terms & Conditions:** The Council approved the Terms & Conditions for EPM2027 as provided in **Annex F**, excluding the sentences concerning a) AI-generated work (section 2 Requirements) and b) excluding photos from two countries from the selection process (section 8 Additional Notes) (votes: 10:0:0)

**Voting** on issue a):

**C56.13 EPM2027 – Action on clarifying the use of AI allowed for the competition (Action 8):** Council agreed to task Derek Swannick to develop formulations on how much AI is allowed to manipulate or enhance a photo and put the proposal to the next Council. (Votes 10:0:0)

**Voting** on issue b):

**C56.14 EPM2027 – Terms & Conditions – excluding photos/authors from certain countries** Council agreed to keep the wording (section 8, Additional Notes) as it is for now until something changes (votes 6:3:1).

The Council will keep a close eye on developments and bring the issue back should new developments require a reconsideration.

The summary of decisions C56.11, C56.12 and C56.13 is provided in **Annex F**.

## 13. Collaboration

### 13.1. Biomet

The Workshop Weather and Well Being: Communicating Biometeorological Knowledge for Public Health II in Ljubljana during the EMS2025 again provided a fruitful platform for biometeorologists in Europe; in the exchange participants addressed the growing policy relevance of climate and weather impacts on human health and well-being.

Also for EMS2026 in Utrecht, a workshop will be organised on this topic as a side event; medical doctors are invited to establish direct links and exchange with those using meteorological information. The workshop will be open for anyone interested, and be co-organised again by the International Society of Biometeorology, the Slovenian Environment Agency, the European

Meteorological Society MCC, the Slovenian Meteorological Society, and the Solco W. Tromp Foundation.

### 13.2. Update on EMS MoUs

*Paper provided: C56\_13\_memoranda-of-understanding (part II – Annexes)*

The President provided an update on the MoUs the EMS has been negotiating over the last year: The MoU between the EMS and the Korean Meteorological Society has been signed on 27 January 2026 during the AMS Annual Meeting in Houston. The signing of the MoU was posted in February on the website.

Further discussions on specific actions to be included in the MoU are ongoing with the Chinese Meteorological Society; Liz Bentley is leading this on the EMS side.

Also, an update from IFMS, the International Forum of Meteorological Societies was given; Liz Bentley is now the President of this forum, trying to establish this grouping again as a place for societies around the world to meet, exchange experience and establish networks.

A first opportunity to meet may be provided at the fringe of the EMS2026 in Utrecht.

The paper c56\_13-1 detailed that the MoU with the International Society for Biometeorology (ISB) is up for renewal this autumn. The ISB board confirmed its wish to renew the MoU as is.

**C56.15 MoU ISB:** The Council approved the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Society for Biometeorology for another 5 years. (votes: 10:0:0).

Tanja Cegnar, incoming President of the ISB, underlined, that the MoU is very general, to allow collaboration to develop; too specific agreements could restrict flexibility.

**Action 9:** Try to establish numbers about ISB members attending the EMS Annual Meetings.

### 13.3. MoU management

The Bureau proposed that Council should take better ownership of the MoUs and the management process and develop a concept for the future management of the MoUs. The vital aspects identified include:

- 1) Identify a Point of Contact (PoC) on each side
- 2) Have a yearly check-point to take stock of actions that have taken place
- 3) Reflect on benefits for both parties
- 4) Exchange on activities that have happened on both sides that may be relevant for the MoU
- 5) Identify next-year activities and possibilities of joint initiatives or co-benefits in these activities
- 6) Discuss whether to continue/extend/modify/terminate on a regular basis (identify frequency)

**Action 10:**

- Jean-Noël Thépaut and Derek Swannick will review and update the definition of the process and provide a proposal at the next Council Session.
- Jean-Noël Thépaut will take the lead in the management of the MoUs.

### 14. EMS Membership

*Paper provided: C56\_14\_membership (part II – Annexes)*

Associate Member organisations of EMS are grouped according to their area of work and business area:

- Manufacturers
- Service providers
- NMHSs, including EUMETNET – to be renamed as National and regional meteorological services
- Education institutes
- Permanent observers: ECMWF, EUMETSAT

**C56.16 EMS Associate Member group:** The Council approved to re-assign the two regional services ARPA FVG - s.o.c. OSMER, Italy, and Servei Meteorològic de Catalunya, Spain, to the renamed group “National and regional meteorological services” (formerly NMHSs, including EUMETNET). (votes: 10:0:0).

## 15. Council composition 2026 – 2027

*Paper provided: C56\_15\_council-composition (part II – Annexes)*

### Rotating members:

The Council suggests that Member Societies from

- Serbia,
- Belgium,
- Hungary and the
- Czech Republic

are approached for a representation on Council from autumn 2026.

Two Member Societies will be suggested to the General Assembly on 6 September 2026 for election to the EMS Council.

In addition, Vesna Djuricic, Croatia, whose term ends this autumn should stay on as a (non-voting) guest in the process of the preparation of the EMS2028, representing HMD Croatia.

## 16. Topics to be discussed at the General Assembly (06 September 2026)

Erland Källén, from the Swedish Met Society (SMS) raised the issue that SMS member numbers are going down, and it proves hard to find people taking on responsibility for the governance of the Society. In particular younger scientists do not join the Society. He was wondering if this is an issue also for other societies and suggested this could be discussed at the GA in autumn.

**Action 11:** Plan a survey among Members about the development of their membership and in particular of young people joining: Erland Källén will be involved to prepare the survey and the sessions at the GA.

## 17. 57th Session of Council

The 57th Session of Council will take place as a half-day online meeting, on Wednesday 26 August 2026, 10:00 – 13:00 CEST.

A Photo of all Council attendees onsite and online was taken; the local hosting institute wanted to use this for their social media channel: all attendees agreed to be on the photo to be used on the institute’s outreach channels.

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

**Annex A: Agenda****Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions****Annex C: Revised EMS Budget 2026****Annex D: EMS2027 Programme & Science Committee****Annex E: Media Awards 2026 selection committees****Annex F: Terms for the EPM2027 (Europhotometeo 2027)****Annex A: Agenda agreed by the EMS Council for the 56th Session**

1. Opening
2. Acceptance of the Agenda, declaration of conflicts of interest, declaration of AOB
3. Implementation of decisions and actions agreed at the 55th Sessions
4. Report of the Bureau
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Approval Report of the Bureau including the financial report
7. Report of the secretariat
8. Election of EMS Officer: President
9. Report Committee on Meetings
10. Awards programme
11. Report JEMS Editorial Board
12. Europhotometeo
13. Collaboration
14. EMS Membership
15. Council composition 2026 - 2027
16. Topics to be discussed at the General Assembly (06 September 2026)
17. AOB
18. Time of the 57th Council Session

**Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions of the EMS Council 56th Session, 27-28 March 2026**

**C56.01 Budget 2026:** The Council approved the revised EMS Budget for 2026 as provided in **Annex C**.

**C56.02 Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report:** The Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report.

**C56.03 Election EMS President:** The Council elected Florence Rabier, Météo et Climat, France, as EMS President for a three-year term starting on 11 September 2026.

**C56.04 Programme and Science Committee EMS2027:** The Council approved the composition of the PSC as provided in **Annex D**.

**C56.05 Venue EMS2028:** The Council approved the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, as venue for the EMS2028, with the dates 10-15 September 2028.

**C56.06 CoM membership:** Council approved the membership Kristína Szabóová as ECS member and Roope Tervo as member of the Committee on Meetings until spring 2029.

**C56.07 Media Awards selection committees:** The Council approved the composition of the 2026 selection committees for the Outreach & Communication Award, the Communicating Weather & Climate Award and the Journalistic Award as detailed in **Annex E**.

**C56.08 EMS Technology Achievement Award 2026:** The Council selected the weather app Windy.com to be recognised with the Technology Achievement Award 2026, with the following citation: *Windy.com is an all-in-one weather app for those who make crucial weather-related decisions. The app provides in-depth weather insights for the whole world.*

**C56.09 EMS Silver Medal 2026:** The Council selected Markus Repnik to receive the EMS Silver Medal 2026, and approved the following citation: *Markus Repnik receives the EMS Silver Medal for his outstanding impact on the European meteorological community through the creation and leadership of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), enhancing Europe's role in sustaining global surface-based observations that are essential for modern weather prediction.*

**C56.10 Management EMS Europhotometeo competition (EPM):** The Council approved the following:

- Continue the EPM with a two-year cycle.
- Keep Andrea Oestreich as the manager of the competition.
- Start the next competition in autumn 2026 (EPM2027).

**C56.11 EPM2027 –Organising Committee:** The Council approved Andrea Oestreich (EMS; lead), Petra Grasse (DMG, Germany) and Eugenio Arenas (AME, Spain) as the EPM2027 organising team.

**C56.12 EPM2027 – Terms & Conditions:** The Council approved the Terms & Conditions for EPM2027 as provided in **Annex F**, excluding the sentences concerning a) AI-generated work (section 2 Requirements) and b) excluding photos from two countries from the selection process (section 8 Additional Notes)

**C56.13 EPM2027 –Action on clarifying the use of AI allowed for the competition (Action 8):** Council agreed to task Derek to develop formulations on how much AI is allowed to manipulate or enhance a photo and put the proposal to the next Council.

**C56.14 EPM2027 – Terms & Conditions – excluding photos/authors from certain countries** Council agreed to keep the wording (section 8, Additional Notes) as it is for now until something changes.

**C56.15 MoU ISB:** The Council approved the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Society for Biometeorology for another 5 years.

**C56.16 EMS Associate Member group:** The Council approved to re-assign the two regional services ARPA FVG - s.o.c. OSMER, Italy, and Servei Meteorològic de Catalunya, Spain, to the renamed group “National and regional meteorological services” (formerly NMHSs, including EUMETNET).

## Actions

**Action 1:** Council members interested in supporting such a development are invited to contact Jörg directly with their ideas how to take this forward. *(related to perspective of Strategy Monitoring Group: to discuss the issue of Europe protecting its (intellectual) assets)*

**Action 2:** The Council in principle agreed to the outline for the emissions reporting structure; the SMG is tasked to provide the detailed report to Council at the next session.

**Action 3 (related to venue choosing):** Derek Swannick and Jörg Steinwagner will analyse the country statistics with respect to likelihood of attendance dependent on the location of the venue.

**Action 4:** Tanja Cegnar is asked to consider early career scientists in the succession planning for the Media & Communication committee and also the selection committees.

**Action 5:** Investigate whether an “electronic badge” for EMS Awards winners or similar could be provided to awardees with the suggestion to highlight these on their website, also to promote EMS awards.

**Action 6 (related to evaluation of Silver Medal nominees):** The Awards Committee is tasked to propose revised wording of the terms to reflect this intention.

**Call to Action 7:** All EMS Council members to submit new ideas to the Editors-in-Chief on how to enhance the visibility of JEMS.

**Action 9:** Try to establish numbers about ISB members attending the EMS Annual Meetings.

**Action 10 (related to MoU management):**

- Jean-Noël Thépaut and Derek Swannick will review and update the definition of the process and provide a proposal at the next Council Session.
- Jean-Noël Thépaut will take the lead in the management of the MoUs.

**Action 11:** Plan a survey among Members about the development of their membership and in particular of young people joining: Erland Källén will be involved to prepare the survey and the sessions at the GA

**Annex C: Revised Budget 2026, agreed at C56, March 2026: column C**

		2026	
1	A	B	C
2	Carried forward from previous year:	322.218,45	322.218,45
3		2026 Budget plan agreed by C55	2026 Budget plan changes agreed at C56
4	<b>Income</b>		
5	Income from Members	25.194,00	25.194,00
6	Income from Associate Members	40.581,00	40.581,00
7	Annual Meeting	76.000,00	76.000,00
8	VAT Annual Meeting	5.320,00	5.320,00
9	JEMS	8.500,00	8.500,00
10	Interest	500,00	500,00
11	<b>Total</b>	<b>156.095,00</b>	<b>156.095,00</b>
12	<b>Expenditure</b>		
13	Salaries	185.000,00	160.064,00
14	Committees, Project Teams		
15	Awards	10.600,00	10.600,00
16	Europhotometeo (EPM)	-	-
17	Workshops	650,00	650,00
18	Website hosting & development	1.700,00	2.500,00
19	Honoraria, Fees, Insurances	7.500,00	7.500,00
20	Travel	10.400,00	10.400,00
21	Support for topical meetings	150,00	150,00
22	Banking charges	400,00	450,00
23	Office costs	3.000,00	3.000,00
24	Implementation Net Zero Pledge	2.000,00	2.000,00
25	Other expenditures	50,00	50,00
26	VAT Ann. Meeting prior year (Tax Adv: VA	5.320,00	5.320,00
27	VAT other prior year		a) 307,42
28	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>226.770,00</b>	<b>202.991,42</b>
29	Payments on fixed assets		
30	<b>Income – Expenditure</b>	<b>-70.675,00</b>	<b>-46.896,42</b>
31			
32	<b>Account Balance at/anticipated 31Dec</b>	<b>251.543,45</b>	<b>275.322,03</b>

a) VAT on purchases abroad has to be paid in Germany; the total amount for year N is calculated after the end of the year when the tax advisor compiles the income-expenditure statement; and is then paid in year N+1: in 2026 307.42€ were paid for 2025 purchases.

**Annex D: Programme and Science Committee for EMS2027, Kraków, Poland**

- **Chair: Dick Blaauboer** – EMS Committee on Meetings
- **Eric Bazile** Météo France
- **Frank Beyrich** Moderator UP Programme Stream (DWD)
- **Bogdan Bochenek** Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research, Institute (IMGW-PIB), (local host EMS2027)
- **Tanja Cegnar** Moderator ES Programme Stream
- **Ksenija Cindrić Kalin** University of Zagreb (host of EMS2028)
- **Barbara Chimani** EUMETNET Climate Programme – Deputy Moderator UP Programme Stream (GeoSphere Austria)
- **Representative** of EUMETNET WGCEF (*has been approached*)
- **Carola Detring** European Meteorological Society
- **Marie Doutriaux-Boucher** EUMETSAT, chair Poster award committee
- **Gerald Fleming** Deputy Moderator ES Programme Stream (Ireland)
- **Becky Hemingway** EMS Committee on Meetings (ECMWF)
- **Tim Hewson** European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
- **Martina Junge** European Meteorological Society
- **Peter Kalverla** EMS Committee on Meetings (Netherlands eScience Center)
- **Representative** of Deutscher Wetterdienst
- **Matthieu Kohl** World Meteorological Organisation
- **Haleh Kootval** EMS Committee on Meetings (Worldbank)
- **Marc Korevaar** Hydrometeorological Equipment Industry – HMEI (Kipp & Zonen/OTT HydroMet)
- **Klemen Bergant** EUMETNET
- **Antti Mäkelä** Deputy Moderator OSA Programme Stream (FMI)
- **Andrea Montani** Moderator OSA Programme Stream (ECMWF, ARPA)
- **Roope Tervo** EMS Committee on Meetings (EUMETSAT)
- **Kristína Szabóová** EMS Committee on Meetings (SHMU)
- **Monika Kasina** Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (local host EMS2027)
- **Dennis Schulze** PRIMET (MeteoIQ)
- **Victoria Sinclair** EMS Committee on Meetings (University of Helsinki)
- **Gert-Jan Steeneveld** NVBM (local host EMS2026)
- **Dan Suri** MetOffice
- **Zbigniew Ustrnul** Jagiellonian University in Krakow (local host EMS2027)
- **Joanna Wibig** Polish Meteorological Society (local host EMS2027)
- **Agnieszka Wypych** Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (local host EMS2027)

**Annex E: Media Awards 2026 selection committees**

The Council approved the composition of three Media Awards committees 2026 as follows:

**Outreach & Communication Award 2026**

- 1 [Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia - chair](#)
- 2 Rasmus Benestad, Norway
- 3 Patricia de Rosnay, – a member of the Awards Committee
- 4 Frederica Flapp, Italy (2025 awardee representative)
- 5 Gerald Fleming, Ireland
- 6 Tomas Halenka, Czech Republic
- 7 Inge Niedek, Germany

**Communicating Weather & Climate Award 2026**

- 1 [Gerald Fleming, Ireland - chair](#)
- 2 Rasmus Benestad, Norway
- 3 Inge Niedek, Germany
- 4 David Schultz, UK
- 5 Jay Trobec, USA (AMS)
- 6 Jeremy Wilks, France (2025 awardee)
- 7 Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia

**Journalistic Award 2026**

- 1 [Rasmus Benestad, Norway - chair](#)
- 2 Patricia de Rosnay (member EMS Awards Committee)
- 3 Gerald Fleming, Ireland
- 4 Inge Niedek, Germany
- 5 Conor Purcell, Ireland (2025 awardee)
- 6 Jay Trobec, USA (AMS)
- 7 Tanja Cegnar, Slovenia

**Annex F: Terms & Conditions for the Europhotometeo competition EPM2027 as approved by Council;** *all text marked in red is still under consideration and will be revised and finalised at the next Council Session in August 2026.*

## Europhotometeo Competition 2027

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) announces the photography competition Europhotometeo2027 (EPM2027), with the terms and conditions as described below. By submitting an entry, the authors agree to and accept the rules listed under these terms and conditions. The competition is administered by the EMS secretariat together with an organising team.

Europhotometeo2027 is hosted on emetsoc.org, and the associated privacy policy applies. In addition, please note the following terms and conditions in relation to the competition.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

#### 1. Eligibility

The competition is open to any person that would like to participate. Each author can submit one photo, which must have been taken by the submitting author.

#### 2. Requirements

Only digital photos specifically related to clouds or other meteorological phenomena taken within 2025 or 2026 will be accepted.

- Files have to be uploaded in jpg-format.
- Files need to keep their original EXIF metadata.
- All kinds of photo-montages, including panorama photos, star-trails, heavily altered or retouched images, **AI-generated photos**, and photos with superimposed writings or other additions (like watermarks) will not be accepted.
- Maximum file size of 8 MB.

It is the responsibility of each entrant to ensure that any photograph submitted has been taken with the permission of the subject(s) and/or venue/location and does not infringe the copyright of any third party, or the right of a person on its own image. Any infringement is the sole responsibility of the author; the EMS cannot be held accountable. In unity with other arts competitions, the Europhotometeo competition will be suspending any photographs taken in Russia or Belarus, **by** authors living in these countries. Those photos will not be judged until there is a peaceful resolution to hostile actions.

The original copy of any photo may be requested from the author in order to check the file properties.

#### 3. Upload, deadline and copyright

All photos must be uploaded to the following website:

<https://www.emetsoc.org/europhotometeo/album/europhotometeo-2027>, Registration with the author's full name and email-address is required. Please see the data protection section below on the storage and deletion of these data; additional information about our privacy policy and data protection are available at <https://www.emetsoc.org/privacy-policy/>.

All submissions to EPM2027 are copyrighted under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 licence (link: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>), which means that EPM content is owned by the individual authors and that they must always be credited when their photo is used. Authors submitting photos to EPM2027 can choose a more restrictive licence, such as Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial ShareAlike 3.0 licence.

For each entry the following information must be provided in the English language:

- Title and a short description; the description needs to be in English (maximum 120 words).
- Original resolution (in pixels).
- Equipment used.
- Place where the photo was taken, including the country.
- Date when the photo was taken.
- Selection of a Creative Commons Attribution license.

In addition, the following EXIF data of the photo file are extracted and stored:

- camera model
- resolution
- aperture
- focal length
- ISO
- shutter speed
- file size

The deadline for upload of photos is 15 January 2027.

#### 4. Admission

The organising committee decides on admission of the photos to the photo competition, on grounds of eligibility plus requirements given in sections 1, 2 and 3. The organising committee reserves the right of acceptance of entries.

#### 5. Selection process

**In the initial selection phase**, all admitted entries will be evaluated by a pre-selection committee consisting of volunteers from EMS Member Societies and Associate Members. The highest-scored photos will be displayed at the EMS public gallery after *1 March 2027*. The organising committee reserves the right to decide on the number of images that will be displayed in the photo gallery.

**In the second and final selection phase**, the jury, consisting of all members of the EMS Council and the Presidents of all EMS Member Societies, will select the top ten entries. The jury's decision will be final and will not be subject to review.

A **Public voting** will be enabled.

#### 6. Results and Prizes

The authors of the photos ranked first, second and third will receive a certificate and the prize money given below:

- First Prize: 1000€
- Second Prize: 500€
- Third Prize: 250€.

The top ten scored photos of the competition will be announced on the EMS website in early April 2027. Authors of photos awarded a prize will in addition be notified by e-mail. It is the responsibility of all photographers to check the website and their email accounts for winning notifications. Payment of prize money is only possible by bank transfer; transfer of the prize money will be done as soon as the prize winners have provided their bank account data, but not later than up to 1 year after the end of the specific contest (i.e. 31 March 2028).

## 7. Copyright and permissions

All the material in the EPM database is copyrighted under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 licence (link: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>), which means that EPM content is owned by the individual authors and that they must always be credited when their photo is used. Authors submitting photos to EPM2027 can also choose a more restrictive licence, such as Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial ShareAlike 3.0 licence.

Any use of a photo published in the EPM2027 gallery must include appropriate credit to the author and the EMS by citing the name of the ©photographer and stating “EMS Europhotometeo2027” as follows:

*Credit: [Author's first name] [Author's last name] (distributed via EMS Europhotometeo2027/  
<https://www.emetsoc.org/europhotometeo/album/europhotometeo-2027/>)*

## 8. Additional Notes

The EMS is excluded from liability for any loss, damage or injury which might occur to the winner arising from his or her acceptance of the prize. The entrant will indemnify the EMS for all liabilities, including legal costs, in relation to any action or complaint taken by any third party against the promoter in relation to the entrant's photograph(s).

In accordance with current EU sanctions, EMS will not make any payment of prizes to Russian or Belarusian institutions or banks, or any person or institution on any of EU sanction lists.

By uploading their photos to the EMS photo gallery, the authors agree to these terms and conditions as well as the decisions the organisers may take about any other matters, at their discretion. Within the registration and upload process the authors have to confirm that they accept these terms & conditions and have read and understood and accept the data policy.

## 9. Data protection and deletion of submitted photos and login data

Entries **not accepted**: All personal data provided (Login data), the photo and all meta data will be deleted until two months after the submission deadline for the competition.

Entries **not selected for the photo gallery and final voting stage**: Login data, photos and all meta data will be deleted until two months after the photo gallery has been made public.

**Login Data of all users** will be deleted within two months after the publication of the winners on the website.

## 10. General

The EMS reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions. When a photograph is submitted and the entry date has passed, the entry cannot be changed or withdrawn. Entries for the competition are free. Entry to the prizes shall be deemed full and unconditional acceptance of the terms & conditions.