

2nd EMS General Meeting

Old Music Room, St. John's College, Cambridge, UK, 11 July 2000

Minutes

approved by the Third EMS General Assembly on 27 September 2001

Note: All votes are denoted as (x/y/z) wherein x is the number of votes cast in favour, y is the number cast against a point voted upon and z is the number of abstentions. These minutes follow the points of order according to the agenda.

Present: Renato Carvalho (APMG, Lisbon), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Ljubljana), Stanley Cornford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMS, Bracknell), Marjana Gajic-Capka (HMD, Zagreb), Raino Heino (GS, Helsinki), Luigi Mariani (AIAM, Milano), René Morin (EMS President, SMF, Paris), Gerald Mills (IMS, Dublin), Fritz Neuwirth (EMS Vice-President, ÖGM, Vienna), Manuel Palomares (AME, Madrid), Christoph Schaer (SGM, Zurich), Marc Vandiepenbeeck (SRBA, Brussels), Werner Wehry (DMG, Berlin), Jon Wieringa (EMS Vice-President, NVBM, De Bilt)

Guests: Maarten Noort (Meteo Consult), David Axford (RMS)

In attendance: Arne Spekat (EMS Executive Secretary).

Beginning: 14:00 End: 17:00

1. Acceptance of the agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted (14/0/0)

2. Minutes of the 1st General Meeting in Norrköping

The Minutes of the Norrköping General Meeting, held on 15 September, 1999 were accepted (14/0/0).

3. Activities of EMS Councillors and Officers

a) René Morin

The EMS President has sought contacts with the European Union and agreed to have a meeting with Christian Paternmann of DGXII and several Commissioners from the fields of Research and Environment. The proposed time frame is August/September 2000. He has established contacts with potential Associate Members (in cooperation with other Councillors) and with the American Meteorological Society (AMS). At the Annual AMS Meeting in Long Beach, January 2000, he formally announced EMS at the Conference Luncheon. Furthermore two business meetings with the AMS Presidium and with AMS Conference Officers took place in Long Beach, on behalf of EMS attended by himself, Werner Wehry and Arne Spekat. René Morin is invited to the AMS' Annual Meeting 2001 in Albuquerque. A further invitation to present the EMS has come from the AMS Conference on Interactive Information Processing (IIPS) which is part of the Annual AMS Meeting.

b) Fritz Neuwirth

One of his tasks is to improve the mutual access to Societies' resources. To these ends Fritz Neuwirth proposed that the EMS web site will be the hub of information. The exchange of information has improved due to EMS' very existence, though the language barrier is, admittedly, problematic. Maintaining web sites in English (the EMS Secretary has assisted many Members with respect to their English Web representation) and publishing lists of national publications with short descriptions in English would be a favourable and beneficial course. EMS will encourage the exchange of journals and bulletins at a preferential rate and - if possible and applicable - the inclusion of Abstracts in English in publication. He also suggested to introduce a chat room into the EMS web site.

c) Jon Wieringa

Education (as well as the content of information in media weather reports, and the topic of accreditation of professionals) was the main objective of a COST Action proposal submitted to the Technical Committee (TC) of COST in September 1999. It was met with reactions to the effect that support *in principle* was signaled, though, at first the media component had to be removed - this will be pursued by an activity started by EMS Councillor Tanja Cegnar. On 30 and 31 March 2000 a redraft meeting of a working group for the COST 721 proposal met in Vienna. EMS was represented by Jon Wieringa, Fritz Neuwirth (then Chair of the COST TC) and Arne

Spekat. In May 2000 the results were presented to the COST Technical Committee at its meeting in Volos (Greece). Owing to its response and recommendations, a further redraft will be necessary, leaving out the accreditation part (a proposed field of activity and focal point for EMS itself, underlined by the fact that RMS and EMS held an Accreditation Workshop in Cambridge) and focusing on the school education aspect of the proposed action. The Working Group, meeting on 28-29 August 2000 in Berlin, established links to the EWOC Conference 2003 in Spain by incorporating Agueda Benito. The resulting document will be submitted to the COST TC Meeting in October 2000 in Brussels.

d) Werner Wehry

A strong seller already (~12,000 copies sold each year), the *Meteorologische Kalender*, which had been produced in co-operation with DMG and SMF in the English, French and German languages will in its 19th year of existence become the *European Meteorological Calendar* in 2001. The key topic for the texts will be Hydrometeors, and the editors are proud to have secured none less than Sir John Mason to write substantial contributions. Beside short profiles of DMG, SMF and RMS, a description of EMS will be included as well. The proposed publication date will be in early October 2000.

In the subsequent discussion, RMS announced that it will send its journals to individual members of Member Societies at a rate equal to the price it charges its own members plus 10%. Other Societies will follow suit.

The General Meeting approved the activity reports by a vote of (14/0/0)

4. Member Societies

The Irish Meteorological Society (IMS) and the Société Royale Belge d'Astronomie, de Météorologie et de Physique du Globe (SRBA) which had applied to become EMS Members in 2000 were formally welcomed into EMS by a vote of (14/0/0 - Resolution 5).

It was announced that the Danish Meteorological Society resigned from its EMS Membership after a very brief period. The Norwegian Society will probably join EMS. The Polish Society (some 600 members) does not see a way to fund its EMS Membership and remains on an *informal contacts* basis. Bulgaria is about to set up a Meteorological Society. The Baltic States have no Meteorological Society yet, though the potential for a foundation exists. Further contacts have been established to the Israel Meteorological Society.

5. 1st EMS Annual Meeting

It was announced that EMS will have its first Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 5th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) in Budapest, Hungary. The sessions will be taking place on 24 September 2001 afternoon and 25 September 2001 morning. The 1st EMS Annual Meeting will - in plenary, not parallel sessions - cover three aspects: I Demand (probably one speaker), II Technology (probably two speakers) and III Structure (probably 6-10 speakers). EMS will work towards a framework wherein its Annual Meetings will be held in conjunction with conferences such as the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC), the International Conference on Alpine Meteorology (ICAM) and others. In order to homogenize the terminology, a renaming of the EMS *General Meeting* into *General Assembly* was proposed (see section 8b).

6. Report of the EMS Treasurer

The Treasurer presented a diagram with the cash flow of the EMS bank account. The Societies were thanked for sending their EMS Membership fees for 1999 and were reminded that, after the Meeting in Cambridge the 2000 fee invoices will be sent, including outstanding banking fees. EMS assets were mainly spent on the Secretariat (salaries and office material), mission costs, the EMS Newsletter and fees in conjunction with EMS' registration. In conclusion he stated that it is foreseeable that EMS will have the funding to continue to *live*, though expansion is required, since it will soon enter its next phase, when it will start to *act*. He reported that the Council has decided to enhance EMS' visibility on the level of individual members in national Societies by printing a large number of extra copies of Newsletter 6 in order to distribute them to individual members in the member societies.

The treasurer's report was accepted by a vote of (13/0/1).

7. Associate Members

EMS was founded as a Society of Societies. In order to foster its role as a neutral ground, a new type of *associate* membership was suggested, applicable for organizations and companies active on a European level. These would have observer status, e.g., at the EMS Council. Two instances are envisaged: (i) Permanent Observers - annual fee: initially 5000 Euro and (ii) Grouped Observers (coming from a wide range of Associate Members

such as the industry sector, the users, broadcasting, as well as other Societies, such as the EGS or National Meteorological Societies from countries outside of Europe) annual fee: initially 1000 Euro.

To make provisions for the introduction of Associate Membership, formal (changes in the Constitution) and informal requirements (contacts with potential candidates) must be met. Furthermore, ways and means need to be found to identify appropriate Associate Members. Soundings have been made with ECMWF, EUMETSAT, EUMETNET, Vaisala, and MeteoConsult. ECMWF and EUMETSAT should probably belong to group (i), others could be part of fora which can send one observer to Council.

The main decision, though, was if this path should be pursued at all. Therefore Resolution 6 was put to a vote - result: (14/0/0) in favour of it.

8. Changes to the EMS Constitution

a) Associate Members

Changes to the EMS Constitution which accommodate for the Associate Membership were proposed to the General Meeting in advance. They were stated in Resolution 7 and voted (13/0/1) in favour.

b) Taxation in Germany

EMS is in the process of becoming formally registered as an "eingetragener Verein" in Germany. In order to gain tax-favoured status the German laws require, among others, provisions being made in the case of EMS' dissolution. Changes to the Constitution that meet these formal requirements were presented in Resolution 8 and voted (14/0/0) in favour.

c) General Assembly/General Meeting

In order to have a clear terminology it was proposed to change the name of the General Meeting to *General Assembly*. Resolution 9, dealing with this procedure, was presented and voted (14/0/0) in favour. Consequently, this terminology will be henceforth applied, and updates made to the EMS Basic Documents, accordingly.

9. Rules of Procedure for the EMS Council

Being the sovereign of EMS, the General Assembly accepted the Rules of Procedure of the EMS Council by a vote of (14/0/0 - Resolution 10).

10. Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly

The EMS Council will have to finalize the Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, and present them at the next Assembly.

11. Web pages

The EMS Executive Secretary expressed thanks to the ECMWF which hosts the EMS web representation - the pages had to be renamed and relocated twice in its early stage, but by mid-2000 a stable state had been reached, underlined by the fact that EMS is henceforth registered on the web as an international domain:

www.emetsoc.org. The appearance and functionality of the web site does is rather good. The site will certainly grow with EMS taking a more and more active role and it will by the same token rely on the co-operation and contribution of the Members. As an example, some Societies were asked to consider adding a set of basic information in English either to their own web site or as a short portrait to the EMS site. It was offered that e-mail addresses in the form of <society>@emetsoc.org would be possible.

12. New Council Members

The President informed the General Assembly about Council's decision that a Council Year begins on 1 October. As stated in the startup arrangement that in order to ensure continuity, three Councillors will have a one-year term, whereas three will have a two-year term. Therefore, the following changes were put to a vote:

- the Councillor of the Slovenian Meteorological Society should be followed by a Councillor from the Croatian Meteorological Society (vote: 13/0/1);
- there should be a similar arrangement for the Slovakian Meteorological Society, which should be followed by the Czech Meteorological Society (vote: 14/0/0)
- the Swedish Meteorological Society should be followed by the Finnish Meteorological Society (vote 13/0/1).

The subsequent (4th) Council Meeting will convene in its new composition.

13. Miscellaneous

a) EMS Newsletter

Because it signifies the birth of EMS, is therefore representative, as well as comprehensive with its compilation of addresses, the EMS Newsletter No. 6 is planned to be distributed to as many member of EMS Members as possible. A survey will be conducted by the EMS Secretary as to how many extra copies will be needed.

b) Other Publications

Starting *yet another Scientific Journal* is a course which EMS will not pursue at the moment. It was envisaged, though, that a series of publications could focus on contributions from EMS-supported conferences, such as the Symposium *50th Anniversary of Numerical Weather Forecasting* or the *Annual Meetings*.

Another publication, the European Meteorological Calendar has been dealt with in detail by Werner Wehry (see section 3d).

14. Time and location of the next EMS General Assembly

The next General Assembly will take place during the First Annual Meeting of the EMS, held in conjunction with the 5th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM), to be held in Budapest, Hungary, 24-28 September 2001.

Arne Spekat, 11 October 2000

RESOLUTION 5

This General Meeting decides to welcome the following Societies as new EMS Members:

- Irish Meteorological Society (IMS)
- Société Royale Belge d'Astronomie, de Météorologie et de Physique du Globe (SRBA)

RESOLUTION 6

This General Meeting of the European Meteorological Society decides to generate a new class of membership for the European Meteorological Society, the so-called "Associated Members".

RESOLUTION 7

This General Meeting decides to make the following changes to the EMS Constitution with respect to Associate Members:

3.5 In addition to Societies defined in 3.1 above, other bodies with an interest in the aims of EMS may be eligible for Associate Membership. Such bodies include non-European Meteorological Societies, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, companies with interests in meteorology, related sciences and their applications, and Europe-wide bodies with similar interests.

5.1.5 All Associate Members shall be eligible to attend General Meetings as observers. (Correction: This is in fact paragraph 5.1.6 !)

5.2.7 Associate Members shall be represented at Council in one of two ways. Associate Members which are Europe-wide institutions shall be eligible for permanent observer status on the Council and pay an annual contribution in cash and kind agreed with the Council. Other Associate Members shall also pay an annual contribution in cash or kind agreed with the Council, but shall choose from amongst themselves one Associate Member to represent each of the categories of Associate Members which Council may designate from time to time. Associate Members elected to attend sessions of Council may, like other Representatives at Council, speak when invited by the Presiding Officer.

RESOLUTION 8

This General Meeting decides to make the following changes to the EMS Constitution with respect to formal requirements for the Society's registration in Germany:

§ 1 "The name of the Society shall be European Meteorological Society e.V., abbreviated as EMS."

§ 4.3, second sentence: "It is to be registered at the Vereinsregister"

§ 5.1.1 add the word "in written form" on the first line, so it reads: „There shall be a General Meeting of Members, called in written form by the President...“

§ 5.1.1 After the last sentence add: "Minutes have to be prepared about the content of the meeting. The chairperson is to sign them."

§ 10, fourth sentence: "If the Society is dissolved, or if the Society changes its Constitution in such a way that the Society's purposes would no longer be tax-favoured, then its assets shall pass either to a charity recognized as a corporate body under the public law or to another corporate body which has tax-favoured status for the purpose of promoting geoscience."

In the German version of the Constitution, required for the registration, the modifications will read as follows:

§ 1 „Der Name der Gesellschaft ist Europäische Meteorologischen Gesellschaft e.V., abgekürzt EMS.“

§ 4.3 „Sie ist im Vereinsregister einzutragen.“

§ 5.1.1 first line, add the word „schriftlich“ to the first sentence, so it reads: „Die ordentliche Hauptversammlung der Mitglieder findet, schriftlich einberufen vom Präsidenten, mindestens...“

§ 5.1.1 After the last sentence add: „Über den Sitzungsinhalt wird ein Protokoll erstellt, das der Sitzungsleiter unterschreibt.“

§ 10 fourth sentence: „Bei Auflösung des Vereins oder bei Wegfall steuerbegünstigter Zwecke infolge Satzungsänderung fällt sein Vermögen an eine juristische Person des öffentlichen Rechts oder an eine andere steuerbegünstigte Körperschaft zwecks Verwendung für die Förderung der Geowissenschaften.“

RESOLUTION 9

This General Meeting decides to adopt the title „General Assembly“ instead of „General Meeting“, as well as to introduce it into the EMS Constitution, sets of Rules and other documents.

RESOLUTION 10

The General Meeting decides to accept the modified Rules of Procedure of the EMS Council as they were updated at the Council Meeting in Vienna, 3 March 2000.