

5th EMS General Assembly
Rome, Italy, 17 September 2003
Minutes approved by the 6th General Assembly

Notes. A.: 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.

B: The quorum of 10 Members present was met; in fact 16 representatives of Meteorological Societies and 8 observers and guests participated.

Present:

Entitled to vote

Tage Andersson (SMS, Norrköping), David Axford (EMS Vice President and Treasurer, RMS, Bracknell), Renato Carvalho (APMG, Lisbon [from 14:35]), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Ljubljana), Otilia Diaconu (SMR, Bucharest), Zoltan Dunkel (MMT, Budapest), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Prague), Raino Heino (GS, Helsinki), René Morin (SMF, Paris), Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Vienna [until 16:00]), Sabino Palmieri (UNIMET, Rome [from 14:35]), Manuel Palomares (AME, Madrid), Hans Richner (SMG, Zurich), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, de Bilt), Nedeljko Todorovic (MDS, Belgrade), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

Note: When the meeting started the quorum was already met – a few participants arrived during the first hour and one had to leave before the end, hence the varying participation in voting.

Observers/Guests

Francois Duvernet (Meteo France [from 14:25]), Daniel Keurleber (MeteoSwiss, Zurich), Branka Lalic (MDS, Belgrade), Ivan Obrusnik (CHMI, Prague [from 14:10]), Richard Pettifer (RMS, Bracknell), Rosa Rodriguez (AME, Madrid), Johannes Schmetz (Eumetsat, Darmstadt), John Thompson (WNI Oceanroutes, Aberdeen).

In attendance: Arne Spekat (EMS Executive Secretary, Berlin)

Note: It should become a custom that reports to be presented to the General Assembly ought to be submitted to the EMS Executive Secretary for timely distribution at least six weeks in advance.

Beginning: 14:00 End: 17:30

1. Welcome

The EMS President Werner Wehry chaired and formally opened the 5th EMS General Assembly. It was excellent to note that the trend from the 4th General Assembly in Brussels continued and the quorum was impressively surpassed, and that a sizeable number of observers and guests participated, underlining the importance of the General Assembly. The welcome address was followed by brief introductions of the participants.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda, as it was presented to the Council Meeting was adopted by a vote of (14/0/0) it is annexed as Appendix A.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 3rd General Assembly

The Minutes of the 4th General Assembly in Brussels were accepted by a vote of (14/0/0).

4. Reports of the EMS Bureau

The EMS Bureau, consisting of the EMS President, Werner Wehry, the EMS Vice President and Treasurer, David Axford, the EMS Past President and Vice President, René Morin and the EMS Vice President, Raino Heino reported about their activities. A few items are highlighted here:

EMS-WMO Agreement: In March 2003 a Memorandum of Understanding between EMS and WMO was signed. It marks an enhanced importance and role of EMS.

EMS Annual Meetings: The first three Annual Meetings up to Rome 2003 were essentially of symposium type in conjunction with either the European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM)

or the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). From 2004 on the EMS Annual Meeting will substantially grow and establish itself as a scientific conference with oral and poster sessions, as well as several symposia on featured topics – it will retain its focus on applications. Existing conferences, such as ECAM and ECAC will be hosted as part and partners of the EMS Annual Meeting. Contacts with other conference series, e.g. the European Conference on Radar Meteorology (ERAD), the European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) are established. In the preparation phase of the 4th EMS Annual Meeting, there is and was close co-operation with the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB). The 5th EMS Annual Meeting – to be held in the Netherlands – will feature, e.g., the 7th ECAM Conference; a close co-operation with the ECAM International Planning Committee (IPC) had been established many years ago. EMS co-operates with Copernicus Society on organizational matters. The growth of EMS and its weight will highly depend on the development of its Annual Meetings.

Awards: Though financially demanding, giving awards is an excellent way to support young, aspiring scientists and to add to the visibility of EMS. In the past, a number of conferences were supported by Young Student's Travel Awards, which are intended to cover part of the travel costs. For the first time in 2003 at the 3rd EMS Annual Meeting in Rome the EMS Young Scientist Award was given – in fact, two awards with a prize money of 1000 € each were presented.

5. Report of the EMS Secretariat

The EMS Executive Secretary reported about his activities running the EMS Secretariat, website and daily affairs, as well as the editing of the EMS Newsletter and his involvement in the activities of the EMS Committees. In particular the Committees which have unfolding activities are increasingly requesting capacity on the secretariat level. A further major task will be the work related to the Annual Meetings, e.g., maintaining contact with the respective co-ordination bodies of the topical components and with Copernicus, the logistic organizers.

6. EMS Mission Statement

At the foundation of EMS in 1999 a mission was formulated. It was describing milestones in the phase when EMS started to *live*. Now that EMS started to *act* there is need to update it and state goals for the next EMS stages taking past developments into account. A Strategic Development Group which was introduced in 2002 will devote a great deal of its activity to the EMS Mission Statement. A preliminary form of the statement has been drafted and is available at www.emetsoc.org/SDG/ .

7. Reports of the EMS Committees

The Committees presented their reports and activities. The subsequent discussion and the suggestions on a number of points raised are summarized here.

Accreditation: It was acknowledged that the task is quite difficult and that a standard is in high demand. The National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) system for competence of observers and forecasters is becoming recognized in the UK and is expected to become widely accepted, though the harmonization process will take some effort. EMS will be involved in this process, e.g., the Meteo France delegate promised input. It was pointed out that the development of an accreditation system is expected to influence the competition situation.

Awards: Matters dealing with awards were part of the Report of EMS President (and Chair of the Awards Committee), Werner Wehry (cf. Section 4). It was added that funding for EMS Awards will have about the same order of magnitude in 2004.

Education: The new Chair of the Education Committee reported about the EWOC Conference in Madrid as a first milestone of the Committee's activities – overall no less than 14 papers with participation of the Committee Members were presented there. The EMS Newsletter Nr. 8 gave an update on the Committee and there will be an issue of the EMS Publication Series covering the contributions from Madrid. The Committee will retain the school education focus and further develop a second activity: Updating the European Catalog of Training Opportunities in Meteorology (ECTOM).

Media: Members of the EMS Media Committee had met on 15 September 2003 in Rome. They devised a list of priorities from the Committee's Terms of Reference. It was discussed whether the Committee Membership structure ought to be re-examined and a two-tier structure might be favoured, e.g., on the order of six active scientific members and a number of contact points in media meteorology from various countries. It was also added that there are excellent opportunities for interrelations of EMS Committees, taking topic of joint interest between Media and Education, as well as between Media and Accreditation into account.

Meetings: A new Chair, Hans Sandebring, has been elected for the EMS Meetings Committee. Some background for the development towards the future EMS Annual Meetings has been given in Section

4. It was added that a major effort has to be made in the comparably short preparation time until the 4th Annual Meeting in September 2004 in Nice. Information on topics will have to be sent to the Societies. The General Assembly requested that a reduced participation fee should be envisaged for those who are members of EMS Member Societies. Eumetsat, which had gratefully supported past EMS Annual Meetings suggested that over time a closer co-operation between EMS Annual Meetings and their Eumetsat User Conference Series should be envisaged.

Publications: With its new Chair, Bob Riddaway the EMS Publications Committee is currently discussing and adopting publication strategies – including the EMS web site, newsletter and other publication media. There was a request from the Dutch Meteorological Society with respect to the Newsletter distribution strategy – it was pointed out that a number of copies are sent to the Member Societies and that, upon request, an individual issue could be printed in a number suitable for providing all members of a national Society with a copy. The EMS Executive Secretary requested information on which users and/or libraries might be needing the newsletter.

8. Membership

a) New EMS Members

The following Members have joined EMS since the last General Assembly as EMS Members: The Aviation Meteorology Club of Bulgaria (AMC), the Asociación Española de Biometeorología (AEB) and the Danish Meteorological Society as (DaMS). They were welcomed into EMS by votes of (16/0/0) each of the EMS General Assembly.

The AME from Spain is in contact with the Catalan Meteorological Society which is planning to join EMS following an invitation of the previous General Assembly.

b) Associate Members

EMS is glad to be accepted and supported by a growing number of organizations, weather services and companies. It shows that EMS became a common ground on which striving for the future of Meteorology is considered possible. Since the last General Assembly, the 18th Associate Members has joined EMS: VCS Aktiengesellschaft, Bochum, Germany, was welcomed as an Associate Member of EMS by a vote of (16/0/0) of the EMS General Assembly. It will have observer status as a member of a group of companies at the EMS Council.

9. Finances

a) Report of the Treasurer

The EMS Treasurer, David Axford, presented his financial report. He underlined that the invoices for the Annual Fees for EMS Members and Associates should be sent earlier in the year and suggested April as a feasible time. The EMS Executive Secretary was asked to contact the Member Societies about a month before issuing the invoice, inquiring if the number of Members on which the invoice will be based, had changed from the previously known number.

b) Prospects for 2003 and beyond

The Treasurer presented his financial planning. It was pointed out that EMS will face a major challenge in expanding its Annual Meeting, from 2004 on, into a considerably larger conference. This bears the potential of having income from the Annual Meetings and a risk potential which is minimized by the organizational structure and the services of the Copernicus Organization.

Resolution G29 with respect to the acceptance and approval of the Treasurer's report was voted (15/0/1).

10. Composition of Council

As in previous General Assemblies two Councillors who had served successfully and with great enthusiasm during their two-year term and whom the EMS President warmly thanked for their effort, initiative and activities are leaving Council by the end of the year: Renato Carvalho (APMG) and Hans Richner (SGM). The 4th General Assembly voted Resolution G30 (15/0/0) and thus the following Councillors were invited: Rosa Maria Rodriguez (Met Societies from Spain) and Nicholas Prezerakos (HMH). Their terms will begin by the end of the year 2003 and they will first convene at the 10th EMS Council.

11. Membership within EMS Member Societies

A matter of common interest the General Assembly discussed their strategies to overcome a tendency that is widespread: the dwindling interest in Membership in scientific societies. In particular the lack of interest among students was noted. There are various strategies to involve this particularly important

group in Societal activities. Some countries (e.g. Switzerland or Germany) have a support programme and invite them to their regular meeting. Awards are also a stimulus for young scientists. It was discussed whether the EMS Awards should be restricted to those who are already Members of a national society – yet in retrospect almost none of the awards so far presented to young scientist could then have been given. Though it is too early for these measures, it should become stricter over the years. As another promising approach it was suggested to have a higher involvement of students and young scientists into the work of the Societies' bulletins.

12. Miscellaneous

The EMS representative of the Swedish Meteorological Society, Tage Andersson, presented a paper informing about his Society which also summarized the views and attitudes of his Society's Membership towards EMS. Fortunately, some of the criticism, dealing with the invoicing, for example, can be considered a misunderstanding and could be settled, abating the occasionally harsh tone of the presentation.

Other Societies are encouraged to present their structures, approaches, activities and views to their EMS peers.

13. Time and place of the next General Assembly

The 6th General Assembly will take place in Nice, September 2004 during the 4th EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC Conference.

Werner Wehry closed the 5th EMS General Assembly at 16:45

Appendix A

AGENDA

- 1/ Welcome
- 2/ Acceptance of the Agenda
- 3/ Acceptance of Minutes of 4th General Assembly
- 4/ Activity reports by EMS Bureau
- 5/ Report of the EMS Secretariat
- 6/ EMS Mission Statement
- 7/ Activity reports by EMS Committee Chairs
- 8/ Membership
 - a) Welcome of New Members
 - b) Welcome of Associate Members
- 9/ Finances
 - a) Report of Treasurer
 - b) Prospects for 2004 and beyond
- 10/ Composition of Council
- 11/ Membership within EMS Member Societies – delegates are invited to report about measures and strategies to sustain the Membership in their Societies.
- 12/ Miscellaneous
- 13/ Time and place of next General Assembly (Nice, September 2004)

APPENDIX B

Resolutions

RESOLUTION G25

This General Assembly welcomes the Aviation Meteorological Club of Bulgaria as new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G26

This General Assembly welcomes the Asociación Española de Biometeorología (AEB) from Spain as a new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G27

This General Assembly welcomes the Dansk Meteorologisk Selskab (DaMS) as a new EMS Member.

RESOLUTION G28

This General Assembly welcomes the VCS Aktiengesellschaft, Bochum, Germany as a new EMS Associate Member.

RESOLUTION G29

This General Assembly approves the Financial Report of the Treasurer.

RESOLUTION G30

This General Assembly decides to invite the following new Councillors for a two-year term: Rosa Maria Rodriguez (AME, for the Societies from Spain), Nicholas Prezerakos (HMH, Greece)