

**13<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**  
11 September 2011  
Berlin, Germany

Minutes of 21 November 2011

**Participants:** (voting representatives of EMS Societies/member states underlined)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)  
Ekaterina Batchvarova (guest, BMS)  
Constanta Boroneant (RMS, Romania)  
Tanja Cegnar (SMD Slovenia)  
Ksenija Cindric (HMD, Croatia)  
Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF France)  
Roberto Colucci (UMFVG, Italy)  
Detlev Frömming (DWD Germany)  
Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)  
Tomáš Halenka (CmeS, Czech Republic)  
Jon Malay (guest, AMS President)  
Dominique Marbouty (guest, SMF)  
Olivija Morell (Meteo Mak, FYROM)  
Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)  
Panagiotis Nastos (HMS, Greece)  
Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)  
Andrea Oestreich (EMS)  
Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)  
Ernest Rudel (ÖGM, Austria)  
Guy Schayes (SRBA, Belgium)  
Heinke Schlünzen (guest, DMG)  
Pavel Stastny (SMS, Slovakia)  
Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany)  
Gabriela Szepszo (MMT, Hungary)  
Marc Vandiepenbeek (SRBA, Belgium)  
Joanna Wibiq (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)  
Saskia Willemse (SGM, Switzerland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary  
28 participants

## 1. Opening of session

The President welcomed all participants to the General Assembly. The presence of **19 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 Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

### **3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

The minutes of the 12th session of the EMS General Assembly were accepted unanimously.

### **4. Report of the President and the Bureau**

F. Neuwirth reported on his activities as EMS President since the last General Assembly and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council. His main activity constitutes communication with the Executive Secretary, the chair of the committee on meetings and the Treasurer on the day-to-day business of the EMS.

The EMS Annual Report 2010, detailing activities of the EMS in the previous year, was published in August, and is presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council. Printed copies of the Annual Report have been distributed to all Member Societies and Associate Members in August; it is also publicly available from the emetsoc.org website.

The President reported on a working meeting with the Executive Secretary in Berlin in November 2010 and a meeting with the head of the Institute for Meteorology at the Freie Universität Berlin that hosts the EMS secretariat.

The President continued to represent the EMS on the Steering Committee of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS). The second Global Meeting of the IFMS will be held in China in November 2011 at the invitation of the Chinese Meteorological Society (CMS).

The imminent EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM has been well received with about 600 participants being expected.

The President met with representatives of Eumetsat (M. Pooley, V. Gärtner) at the Eumetsat Meteorological Satellite Conference 2011 and discussed the development and intensification of the collaboration between EMS and Eumetsat. Both sides agreed that new initiatives could be beneficial for both organisations. Among the possible actions are advertising the Eumetsat conference by EMS, providing EMS YSTAs for participation of PhD students at the Eumetsat conference, involving EMS in the 2013 Eumetsat Meteorological Satellite conference which is organised together with the AMS, and distributing material about the EMS at Eumetsat conferences.

The President has finalised agreements with the Board of the Harry Otten Prize for Innovation in Meteorology on the organisation of the award selection process and award ceremony during future EMS Annual Meetings. The Council fully supported and welcomed this agreement to include the prize selection and presentation of the award in the conference programme and noted that such a measure can further increase the prestige of the annual meetings. Dominique Marbouty as member of the board of the Harry Otten Foundation expressed the hope that the prize will be widely advertised by the Member Societies of the EMS.

The President reported that the EMS Council elected Dominique Marbouty (SMF, France) as EMS President for the term 2011 – 2014.

The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2010 – September 2011 (Resolution G107: 19:0:0: Entlastung).

### **5. Report of the Executive Secretary**

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session which were strongly focussed on preparing the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAM in 2011, and

supporting EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

The ems-message No.2-2011 and 3-2011 (12 and 13) have been published. The implementation of the website using a content management system is currently under way and a photo gallery for the Europhotometeo'12 competition has been developed and will be integrated in the new website before the start of the call for submissions.

Following the provision of funds by the EMS Council, Andrea Oestreich has been employed as assistant to the Executive Secretary. Her responsibilities include membership administration and support for the awards committee and the annual meeting, as well as maintenance of parts of the website.

Dominique Marbouty stressed the importance of the exchange of information between the EMS Members.

## **6. Report of the Treasurer**

The Financial report, as given by the Treasurer to the EMS General Assembly, is provided in Annex II.

### ***Financial Accounts 2010***

The financial situation of the EMS is healthy. The balance has increased by 22,467.61€ from December 2009 to December 2010, due to a surplus from the EMS Annual Meeting 2010.

The revenue and expenses statement has been compiled by the tax advisor, B. Hoffmann, Berlin. It was noted that the revenue from the EMS Annual Meeting license fee is subject to VAT (7%).

### ***Audit of the revenue and expenses 2010***

The financial accounts 2010 have been audited by C. Kucklick, Berlin. The audit report certifies that the revenue and expenses statement complies with the legal requirements as well as additional rules included in the constitution of the EMS. Payments made by the EMS are supported by invoices or other vouchers related to the association's purpose. No shortcomings were noted in the audit report.

### ***Forecast of the financial Accounts 2011***

The forecast for the accounts at the end of 2011 was noted; it was stressed that the final result depends to a large extent on the outcome of the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011. The strong financial support of DWD is nonetheless important for the outcome of the Annual Meeting and is highly appreciated.

### ***Budget 2012***

A proposal for the EMS Budget 2012, revised and approved by the EMS Council, was presented during the EMS General Assembly. The Treasurer informed the General Assembly that for the Annual Meetings from 2012 on an Abstract Processing Fee of 30 Euro will be introduced.

The General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2010 of the Treasurer (Resolution G108: 19:0:0).

## 6.2 Appointment of the Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly that Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany, should be re-commissioned as auditor for the accounts 2011.

The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2011 (Resolution G109:19:0:0).

## 7. Council Composition

After this session of the General Assembly the term of three rotating Members on the EMS Council will end: Fritz Neuwirth as representative of the ÖGM, Austria, who also served as President from 2008, Fernando Aguado, as representative of AME, Spain, and Matthias Mohr as representative of NMF, Norway. In addition the permanent representative of DMG, Gerhard Steinhorst, who also served as Treasurer from 2007, resigned from the EMS Council. On behalf of the EMS, the Vice-President Bob Riddaway expressed great gratitude for their commitment to the EMS and the important contributions they have made to developments during their term on the EMS Council.

### Election of Council Members

The thirteenth EMS General Assembly voted on the following:

This General Assembly decides to invite Guy Schayes to represent SRBA Belgium, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2011 – autumn 2013 (Resolution G110: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Ksenija Cindric to represent HMD, Croatia, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2011 – autumn 2013. (Resolution G111: 19:0:0)

This General Assembly decides to invite Eigil Kaas to represent DaMS, Denmark, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2011 – autumn 2013. (Resolution G112: 19:0:0)

The DMG Germany as permanent Member on the EMS Council has nominated K.Heinke Schlünzen, as representative of DMG on the Council.

This General Assembly welcomes K.Heinke Schlünzen as councillor for the DMG, Germany. (Resolution G113: 19:0:0)

## 8. Activities of Member Societies and Associates

### ÖGM, Austria

- A bulletin is published twice each year.
- A national symposium for young scientists is organised.
- The publication PROMET is distributed to its members.
- ÖGM is collaborating with DMG and SGM on the triennial conference DACH (conference language German) and the publication of the Meteorologische Zeitschrift.

### HMS, Greece

- HMS is co-organising the COMECAP 2012: 11th International Conference on Meteorology, Climatology and Atmospheric Physics, Athens, 30 May – 1 June 2012.
- Abstract submission deadline: 15 September 2011.
- More information at [http://comecap2012.geol.uoa.gr/enPages/en01\\_home.html](http://comecap2012.geol.uoa.gr/enPages/en01_home.html).

**DMG, Germany**

- The new president of DMG is Helmut Mayer, University of Freiburg.
- DMG organizes topical conferences, for example on biometeorology and applications of environmental meteorology. These conferences are successful as they also attract decision makers and consultants.

**SMF, France**

- SMF publishes the scientific journal « La Météorologie » and informs its members regularly through a newsletter « SMF Info » which includes information about other European meteorological societies.
- Besides updating the members and everybody interested on its activities, its website also provides a forum for discussion on topical issues.
- An annual conference cycle is organised in Toulouse.
- This year, the 8th International Forum Météo will take place on 1-5 October 2011, in Paris, and include a media workshop, training courses for school teachers, and an international seminar on climate change impacts and adaptation.
- SMF also grants various prizes for primary schools and for young scientists.

**RMetS, UK**

- The Weather Club that was founded in 2010 (see minutes GA2010) and publishes the quarterly magazine *theWeather* for weather enthusiasts is issuing a bookazine based on articles published in *theWeather* during the last year. This bookazine is available at a special prize to all members of Member Societies. More information at <https://theweatherclub.org.uk/shop>.  
It is hoped that the membership/subscriptions subsequently increase

**DaMS, Denmark**

- There are 500 members.
- A magazine is published four times each year.
- DaMS organizes meetings and provides travel awards for participation.
- The Nordic Meeting 2012 will be organised in Copenhagen.

**NMF, Norway**

- Following up on the The Nordic Meeting 2012, NMF suggests that EMS YSTAs could be provided for this conference.

**UMFVG, Italy**

- Annual conferences are organized, each dedicated to a specific topic.
- A magazine that summarizes recent weather situations in the region is published.
- There are 150 members, which indicates a substantial increase within one year.

**AME, Spain**

- The AME organizes an annual conference in collaboration with APMG, Portugal, and also increasingly link these meetings with Latin-American societies, the most recent one primarily with the Brazil meteorological society.
- National meetings for amateurs are organized.

**SRBA, Belgium**

- There are three sections, one of them meteorology, and publishes six issues of the SRBA magazine per year; the society includes professionals as well as amateurs.
- Three conferences are organized each year and also there are outreach events for young people.

### **HMD, Croatia**

- The new editor of the Croatian Meteorological Journal (HMČ) has been elected (Davor Nikolić).
- The first scientific-professional conference the “Challenges in Meteorology” was organised in September 2010 together with Technical Museum in Zagreb, Department of Geophysics and DHMZ; participants from SLO, BiH and Serbia gave an international character to the meeting; it is planned to have a follow-on “Challenges in Meteorology – 2” in November 2011.
- Activities on the popularisation of meteorology have continued (publishing articles in media and journal for science popularization); presenting HMD on TV and radio; lectures in schools, libraries and societies
- World Meteorological Day is celebrated (coorganisation with DHMZ, Geophysical department). It was accompanied by an envelope and post stamp as well as with the awards to the best meteorological observers (6 observers).
- An excursion to Slovenia was organised, jointly with the SMD in April 2011.

### **CMeS, Czech Republic**

- Tomas Halenka reported on the organization of the education session at the EMS&ECAM
- The CHMI has a new director.

### **SMD, Slovenia**

- A statement on climate change that was agreed and publicized; it was well received by the national media.

### **MMT, Hungary**

- There are 605 members; the society is organized in seven divisions.
- Jean-Francois Geleyn has been elected as honorary member of MMT.
- Prestigious events organised by MMT include the World Meteorological Day and the Hungarian Meteorological Days.
- The society publishes a magazine for its members.

### **MeteoMak, FYRO Macedonia**

- MeteoMak co-organiser of the biennial BALWOIS conference 2012 on water management in Balkan countries, which has become more international beyond the Balkan countries recently (2010: 760 submitted abstracts, 400 participants).

### **Other organizations:**

#### **AMS, United States of North America**

- Cuts of trillions in the US administration budget will affect many programmes of NOAA and raises concerns on future satellite coverage.
- To highlight concerns, without undertaking lobbying which is not allowed, a statement as was published a number of years ago on the requirement for adequate observations to issue timely warnings and save lives, and to ensure that it is politically relevant.

#### **Harry-Otten-Prize for Innovation in Meteorology**

- Dominique Marbouty, as a member of the Board of the Harry Otten Foundation, reported on the existing call for applications, and emphasized the focus on the prize that is not intended to honour past achievements but to support or even initiate new ideas for applications of meteorology for the benefit of society.

In summary the EMS President concluded that this meeting provided a good exchange on activities as well as on problems and discussions of the EMS Members. He encouraged all to regularly provide such information to the editorial board for publication on the EMS website and in the electronic newsletter.

## 9. Membership

### New EMS Member Society

In Bulgaria a section of meteorologists was formed as part of the Union of Physicists of Sofia: the Bulgarian Meteorological Society. The society is applying for Membership in the EMS.

The EMS General Assembly welcomes the Bulgarian Meteorological Society, presently organized as section “Meteorologists” with the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria (UBP), as new EMS Member Society. (Resolution G114: 19:0:0).

## 10. Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly

The EMS General Assembly approves the revision of the Rules of Procedure for the EMS General Assembly in rule 31 in section *Conduct of Debates* and rule 49 in section *Voting by Correspondence*.

The new formulation is of rule 31 is:

“If for any reason the President resigns or is unable to carry out his functions, the Vice-President shall have the same powers and duties as the President. If no other officer of the EMS is present at a General Assembly, it has no quorum (see Rule 14).”

The new formulation is of rule 49 is:

“A vote by correspondence is a ballot, that can be called by the President at any time between sessions of the General Assembly at the request either of at least two Representative Member Societies or of a majority of the EMS bureau provided that the matter has been discussed in Council and the minutes have been circulated.”

Those revisions are included in Resolution G115 (19:0:0).

## 11. Code of Practice

Following the discussions on a code of practice at the 12<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly and the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the EMS Council, a revised proposal for a code of practice was adopted by the EMS General Assembly. (Resolution G116: 19:0:0).

The code serves as support for Member societies to discuss the issue, adopt the code or adapt it to their own needs, and present it to the public as statement of the EMS. Feedback on modifications are welcome so the code can be further developed.

## 12. AOB

The possibility to publish conference papers in the open access journal ASR is appreciated as important and good initiative of the EMS. However, a drawback is that papers are not listed in the ISI Science Citation Index which is relevant for scientists publishing their work.

The Executive Secretary is tasked to discuss the issue with Copernicus Publishing, the publisher of ASR.

## 13. Time and Place of next General Assembly

The 14th EMS General Assembly will be held in Łódź, Poland, on 9 September 2012.

Martina Junge

**ANNEX A: Resolutions 13<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

**Resolutions:**

- G107 Approval of Bureau Report September 2010 – September 2011
- G108 Formal approval of Treasurer Report
- G109 Appointment of an auditor
- G110 New Councillor (SRBA, Belgium)
- G111 New Councillor (HMD, Croatia)
- G112 New Councillor (DaMS, Denmark)
- G113 Welcome of new Councillor of DMG, Germany
- G114 Welcome of BMS as Member Society
- G115 Revision of Rules of Procedure
- G116 EMS Code of Practice

**Resolution G107**

This General Assembly approves the Bureau report for the period September 2010-September 2011. (Entlastung)

**Resolution G108**

This General Assembly approves the Financial Report 2010 of the Treasurer. (Entlastung)

**Resolution G109**

This General Assembly appoints C. Kucklick as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2011.

**Resolution G110**

This General Assembly decides to invite Guy Schayes to represent SRBA, Belgium, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2011 – autumn 2013.

**Resolution G111**

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This General Assembly decides to invite Eigil Kaas to represent DaMS, Denmark, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2011 – autumn 2013.

**Resolution G113**

This General Assembly welcomes K.Heinke Schlünzen as councillor for the DMG, Germany.

**Resolution G114**

This General Assembly welcomes the Bulgarian Meteorological Society, presently organised as section "Meteorologists" with the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria (UBP), as new EMS Member Society.

**Resolution G115**

This General Assembly decides to revise the Rules of Procedures for the General Assembly in rule 31, section *Conduct of Debates*, and rule 49, section *Voting by Correspondence*.

The new formulations of **rule 31** is: "If for any reason the President resigns or is unable to carry out his functions, the Vice-President shall have the same powers and duties as the President. If no other officer of the EMS is present at a General Assembly, it has no quorum (see Rule 14)."

The new formulations of **rule 49** is: "A vote by correspondence is a ballot, that can be called by the President at any time between sessions of the General Assembly at the request either of at least two Representative Member Societies or of a majority of the EMS bureau provided that the matter has been discussed in Council and the minutes have been circulated."



## **Resolution G116**

This General Assembly approves the “EMS Code of Practice” as attached.

### **Code of practice – communicating knowledge on climate change to the public**

#### Preamble

This code of practice resulted from discussions of the EMS Media Team and participants of the Media Session at the EMS Annual Meetings 2009 and 2010. It was discussed by the EMS Member Societies and then the 13th EMS General Assembly 2012 adopted this code of practice as guidelines for individuals of the meteorological community in Europe on how to communicate honestly and reliably, with the general public, including the media, on issues of meteorology and in particular on complex or controversial issues such as climate change.

This code of practice is intended to be:

- Adopted by EMS Member organizations if it meets their requirements
- Adapted by EMS Member organizations to address their specific situations and requirements
- Used as guidance for individuals in the European community to support their interaction with media and the public

#### Introduction: Ethics

It is recognized that scientific knowledge is valuable for society, but it also becomes vulnerable in a media-dominated society where any misrepresentation of facts clouds the credibility of information. This situation is aggravated by the intrinsic level of unpredictability of the atmosphere and other earth system components resulting in uncertainty of information. Taking into account that scientists are often not trained in communication or ethics, freedom of speech is fragile in the sense that it can lead to the dissemination of incorrect or misleading information. High standards in science-related communication and media exposure, openness to rational debate and criticism, and honesty will increase the public confidence in science, relevant academies and scientists, in addition to benefitting society itself.

A set of guidelines may make the challenge easier for scientists to communicate with and through the media. Also awareness about the ethical aspects of science and science communication may aid scientists in having a clearer idea of the limits of knowledge and the current “state of art” in meteorology, and, consequently, making decisions about what to say and how, depending on each situation.

#### Principles and Guidelines

Those communicating with the public and the media must:

1. Be aware that speaking as a scientist implies expectations of high standards regarding the exactitude of the information presented.
2. Have a high level of scientific knowledge and experience and master scientific practices and methods.
3. Draw their statements from well-established and unequivocal scientific practices, methods and tests, and avoid ‘cherry-picking’ and any misrepresentation of data.
4. Provide information on the uncertainty of results and knowledge.
5. Avoid providing too much or too little information, concentrate on the relevant issues, and be concise and clear.

6. Ensure that the information is to the greatest possible degree openly available and then processed through transparent data and methods.

In addition, it is essential that those communicating with the public and media are well-prepared and where possible get training to develop the skills required to make presentations in public. Also they need to stay calm and exercise appropriate self-control, discernment and sense of responsibility.