

15th EMS General Assembly

8 September 2013

Reading, UK

Minutes

31 October 2013

Participants: (voting representatives underlined)

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS and AMC, Bulgaria)

Horst Böttger (Chair Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD Slovenia)

Ksenija Cindric (HMD, Croatia)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF France)

Roberto Colucci (UMFVG, Italy) – voting for UNIMET Italy

Sven-Erik Gryning (DaMS, Denmark)

Tomáš Halenka (CMeS, Czech Republic)

Paul Halton (IMS, Ireland)

Mark Hodgkinson (UKMO)

Sylvain Joffre (GS and GFL, Finland)

Monika Lakatos (MMT, Hungary)

Dominique Marbouty (EMS President)

Panagiotis Nastos (HMS, Greece)

Manuel Palomares (AME, Spain)

Anders Persson (SMS, Sweden)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)

Ernest Rudel (ÖGM, Austria)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Sabina Stefan (RMS, Romania)

Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

23 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.

3. Minutes of the 14th EMS General Assembly

The minutes of the 14th session of the EMS General Assembly were distributed in October 2012 to all participants. No revisions or corrections were requested within four weeks. The minutes are held adopted.

4. Recording of decisions at the General Assembly

GA15.01 Recording of General Assembly decisions: The General Assembly agreed that, starting with this 15th Session, all decisions are recorded in the same formal way, independent of any higher or lower relevance. A listing of all decisions will be appended to the minutes, with numbering in the order in which the decisions occur in the minutes. Numbers will start from 1 for each General Assembly. Resolutions can still be adopted by the General Assembly for specific and important texts: this will then be a decision of the General Assembly to make it a resolution. (votes: 19:0:0)

5. Report of the President and the Bureau

Dominique Marbouty 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. During the last year he took particular care to prepare the IFMS Global Meeting Three in collaboration with the RMetS.

The EMS Bureau at its quarterly meeting (audio-conference) conducts a mid-term review of actions and activities. The EMS Bureau had been tasked by Council to explore options for an increase of the Associate Membership Fees, but based on the report of the Bureau Council decided that currently the Associate Membership fees will be kept at the existing level.

The EMS Annual Report 2012, 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 also informed that the Council had agreed to hold the EMS Annual Meeting 2016 in Trieste, Italy, that the venue for the meeting in 2017 is envisioned to be Dublin (pending further research on the proposed venues), and to hold a third Europhotometeo-competition EPM'14, which will start in November and winners be made public on 31 March 2014. He also informed the General Assembly that Bob Riddaway had been re-elected as EMS Vice-President for three years.

GA15.02 Approval of Bureau and Council Report September 2012 – September 2013 (Entlastung): The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau and Council for the period September 2012 – September 2013. (votes 19:0:0)

6. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the secretariat since the last General Assembly which were strongly focussed on preparing the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAM 2013, and supporting EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

Three ems-messages, two in the new format as e-mail newsletter that draws attention to items on the website, have been published since the last General Assembly.

In this connection it was mentioned that new members to the Editorial Board would be welcome and interested individuals should contact the chair, Bob Riddaway.

Attention was drawn to the revision of the scope of the Advances in Science and Research (ASR). It now clearly states that the ASR is the journal for proceedings of the EMS Annual Meetings; the option to have this journal listed in a proceedings citation index will be pursued.

7. Finance

7.1 Report of the Treasurer

The Report of the Treasurer, as given to the EMS General Assembly, was provided in paper GA15_07-1_Report-Treasurer.

Financial Accounts 2012

The balance as at 31 December 2012 was 84 274.86€ and has decreased by 5 455.06€ as compared to 31 December 2011. The revenue and expenses statement of the financial accounts 2012 has been compiled by the office of the tax advisor B. Hoffmann, Berlin (Annex II of Treasurer Report: Audit report, Enclosure 1).

Audit of the revenue and expenses 2012

The financial accounts 2012 have been audited by the auditor C. Kucklick, Berlin. The audit report certifies that the revenue and expenses statement complies with the legal requirements as well as additional rules fixed in the constitution of the society. Payments made by the society are supported by invoices or other vouchers, related to the association's purpose.

Budget 2014

A proposal for the discussion of the Budget of the EMS in 2013 has been provided for the 29th EMS Council (8 September 2013) for decision and the Treasurer informed the General Assembly that due to provisions for the Europhotometeo'14 (3000€) and increase in staff salaries (800€) the budget is unbalanced and the Bureau was tasked to monitor and to take into account the outcome of the EMS & ECAM 2013 to make a new proposal in spring 2014 if necessary.

GA15.03 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung): The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer. (votes: 19:0:0).

7.2 Appointment of the Auditor

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly that Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany, should be commissioned as auditor for the accounts 2013.

GA15.04 Auditor appointment: The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2013. (votes: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: **Ksenija Cindric** as representative of HMD, Croatia, **Guy Schayes** as representative of SRBA, Belgium, and **Eigil Kaas** as representative of DaMS, Denmark.

On behalf of the EMS, the President Dominique Marbouty expressed great gratitude for their commitment to the EMS and the important contributions they have made to the work of the EMS Council during the last two years.

Election of Council Members

The Council had made a proposal for two new Members on the Council (paper GA15_08_Council-composition); a third proposal was made at the General Assembly, namely to elect the GFL, Finland, on the Council.

The representative of AME fully supported the proposals, in particular the nomination of the Portuguese Association for Meteorology and Geophysics.

GA15.05 Council composition 2013 – 2015: The General Assembly elected the Czech Meteorological Society (ČMeS), represented by Tomas Halenka, the Portuguese Association for Meteorology and Geophysics (APMG), represented by Luís Pesanha, and the Geofyysikkojen liitto (GFL, Finland), represented by Sylvain Joffre, as Members of the EMS Council for the term autumn 2013 – autumn 2015. (votes:19:0:0).

8. Membership

The Council had accepted two applications for EMS Associate Membership: at its 28th session that of the Association of Academic research institutions in hydrometeorology in Russia (AAU), at its 29th session that of the Institut für Klima- und Wetterkommunikation (Institute for climate and weather communication).

GA15.06 EMS Membership: The General Assembly welcomed the Institut für Klima- und Wetterkommunikation (IWK) and the Association of Academic research institutions in hydrometeorology in Russia (AAU) as new EMS Associate Members. (votes: 19:0:0).

9. Activities of Member Societies and Associate Members

SMD, Slovenia

- The society organises one to two lectures per year.
- The website has been redeveloped and an editorial board is maintaining and updating it.
- All publications of the society are published on the website and are easily accessible. The society translates articles on climate-change-related issues into Slovenian for the general public.
- The society organises excursions for its members.

ÖGM, Austria

- ÖGM has 270 members.
- Together with ZAMG and the monastery Kremsmünster it organised a symposium on “250years of weather observations at the monastery Kremsmünster” (see <http://www.emetsoc.org/news-room/community-news>)
- In 2015 ÖGM will celebrate its 150 anniversary.
- The triennial conference DACH (conference language German) took place in Innsbruck the week before the General Assembly; 250 people attended.

AME, Spain

- AME in collaboration with APMG (Portugal) is organising an annual scientific meeting; since 2012 the meeting is open for contributions in English (both presentations and posters).
- AME publishes a scientific bulletin for its members; it will now become bilingual and Open Access.
- In 2014 AME will have its 50-year-anniversary; this will be marked with a one-day special event with lectures, possibly with a contribution from the EMS.

SMS, Sweden

- SMS is currently reassessing its status and activities and has established a working group tasked to develop ideas for new activities of the society.
- SMS publishes the quarterly scientific journal "Polarfront".

MetOffice, UK

- A new development at the MetOffice is the activity in the area of space weather, and collaboration with a number of other European NMHS on this is already happening.
- A prevailing issue is the approach to work in partnerships to reduce risks to people and infrastructure, a prominent example is the collaboration of the forecasting department and the environment agencies.
- Another “hot” topic that keeps coming back is the communication of information and particular the way how to communicate uncertainty in weather forecast and climate predictions.

IMS, Ireland

- The aims of the IMS are to attract people from all walks of life with an interest in meteorology and climatology. Thus the IMS holds evening lectures, field trips, one-day meetings/conferences and an Annual Guest Lecture: in 2013 these included a one-day conference on weather and health, a field trip to Birr and Gurteen, the Science Centre, the Arboretum, and the Great Telescope, with 32 participants in March, visits to the agricultural college and a new weather station. Lectures for specialised groups are also organised: the society is currently planning a series of lectures on space weather and communication in the media. A full listing of the lectures and events is on the Society's website www.irishmetsociety.org. The Society makes podcasts and video recordings of lectures.

- A periodic Newsletter is published to inform members of the Society's activities and recent developments in meteorology and climatology. In recent years the IMS has run a photographic competition with a meteorological theme. Since 2009, 2000 entries have been received.
- The current membership is 120. Members include academics, students, teachers, meteorologists, climatologists, lecturers, airline pilots, pharmacists, anaesthetists and many more who share a common love of meteorology and climatology. The majority of members live in Ireland, but there are also members from the USA, Luxembourg, Isle of Man, England, Serbia and Germany. Currently there are eight Honorary Life Members of the Society.
- The Irish Meteorological Society collaborates with Met Éireann, Universities, The Institute of Physics, National Botanic Gardens, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Environment Protection Agency and a variety of State Agencies.
- In 2012 the IMS was honoured to be awarded the EMS 2012 Outreach and Communication Award in recognition of the outreach activities of the IMS committee (2010-2012).

ČMeS, Czech Republic

- ČMeS is preparing a scientific climate forum with the UN branch in Prague; this will include an event for the Media in the run-up of the publication of the IPCC reports.
- The main topic of this year's Annual Meeting was floods, the original intention to discuss terminology in meteorology was not covered due to the meteorological events in spring/summer.

HMD, Croatia

- Preparation for third scientific-professional conference of the Croatian Meteorological Society (HMD) «Challenges in meteorology 3» is in progress (First call has been distributed, 2nd announcement is preparing, 70 abstracts submitted).
Invited speakers who confirmed their participation are: Joan Cuxart (Universitat de les Illes Balears), Philipo Giorigi (ICTP), Nedjeljka Žagar (University of Ljubljana), Maja Žuvela-Aloise (ZAMG) and Rahela Žabkar (University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana)
- World meteorological day (WMD) 2013 was celebrated (co-organised with DHMZ and Geophysical department) with lectures related to the WMD theme (*Watching the weather to protect life and property*); at the event the "Best meteorological observers during 2012" award winners (6 observers) were announced. An envelope and post stamp related to WMD was also published.
- The First HMD Annual Report was published:
http://issuu.com/lovrek/docs/godisnjak_2012?e=8127664/2601985
- An excursion to Međimurje (NW Croatia region) was organized on 25th May 2013.
- HMD is organising an autumn one-day excursion (12th October 2013) to visit the first Croatian geomagnetic observatory in Lonjsko Polje and the meteorological station in Sisak.
- In June the HMD General Assembly was held: the new HMD president (Alen Sajko) and secretary (Jadran Jurković) were elected.
- The first round table on Meteorology activities regulation was held on 19th June 2013 where all professional meteorologists in Croatia were invited. Discussion revealed the necessity to regulate the meteorological activities in Croatia on a legal basis since amateurs dominate the media giving non-professional warnings on extreme weather. Seven members of the Working group were tasked to prepare a proposal for the regulation of Meteorology in Croatia that will make meteorological offices responsible to conduct administrative management functions of meteorological issues.
- The new issues (No 46 and 47) of Croatian meteorological journal (HMČ) is in preparation with the papers from the second HMD conference "Challenges in meteorology 2"
- The new activities on the popularisation of meteorology had been continuing e.g. publishing articles in different journals, presenting HMD on TV and radio
- Future plans
 - to regulate the meteorological market
 - to develop the meteorological license system
 - to improve the HMD budget and become the professional authority in Croatia.Continuing the permanent activities (WMD, excursion, popularisation of meteorology etc)

DaMS, Denmark

- DaMS organised a half-day workshop on solar activity; 120 participants (considerable more than expected) attended, and of these 10 joined DaMS as new members.

BMS and AMC, Bulgaria

- The second congress of physicists in Bulgaria will take place at the end of September; conference languages are Bulgarian and English.

Météo et climat, France

- Contributions from other met societies in Europe are solicited for the society's newsletter.
- The theme of this year's "Forum International de la Météo" was "risk"; it included training workshops for teachers on climate and forecasts, 9000 visitors attended the event.
- The annual scientific meeting will be organised in Paris on "Weather forecasting in the heart of economy and society", on 20 November 2012.
- A scientific day on how climate change is perceived by the public and the media was held.

RMetS, UK

- The RMetS runs a large education programme.
- Regular national, regional and topical meetings take place throughout the country.
- The RMetS runs various accreditations schemes.
- Five scientific journals are published by the society, the newest on Geoscience Data has just been launched this year.

UMFVG, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

- UMFVG is delighted that Trieste has been selected as venue for the EMS Annual Meeting 2016 and grateful for the trust the EMS is putting into the hosts; they will do their best to make it a fruitful and enjoyable event.
- UMFVG has had an increase in membership, now 115 members.
- Two agreements were signed in 2013:
 - Scientific cooperation agreement with the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, a public institute and non-profit organization to promote scientific research in glaciology and climatology in the mountain area of the Julian Alps.
 - Scientific agreement with the Department of Mathematics and Geosciences at the University of Trieste for cooperation, including tutoring of bachelor and master students.
- Public lecture series are organised each term (8 lectures a 1.5 hours)
- The annual UMFVG congress will take place in November this year, with the theme: "Below zero: 30 thousand years of ice in Friuli Venezia Giulia"
- A biannual journal (Meteorologica) is published.
- A table desk meteorological calendar is produced (will be available in November).
- AWS was installed in a high elevated mountain area in a nature Park in the Alps in Nov 2012 for comprehensive studies of the climate in the area which exhibits some glacier remnants.

AGI, Italy

- AGI membership has remained constant over the past year, and the annual membership fees have remained at the same level as in previous years.
- A new issue of the Bollettino Geofisico was published.
- AGI currently works together with the Association for Applied Physics on the development of regulations/accreditation of physicists, including physicists working in earth system science.
- AGI is coordinating a multidisciplinary project, "Buxentum", to study the geophysics and paleo-climate of the region around Salento (South-eastern Italy).

GFL and GS, Finland

The Finnish Association of Geophysics (GFL) has currently 274 Members. It

- works as a link between people working in geophysics,
- fosters advances in scientific and professional development in geophysics,
- acts to monitor and defend professional, social and salary interests of its members, and
- organises training and social events

GFL organised a panel debate on "How to become a consultant" in May 2013.

The Geophysical Society of Finland (GS) has currently ca. 240 members + 12 corporate members.

The new chair of the GS is Dr. Sanna Kaasalainen, from the Geodetic Institute.

- The Biannual Geophysical Days were organised on 22-23 May 2013 with about 30 presentations, 13 posters and over 50 participants. During the events the 12th Silver Palmén medal (awarded every 4 yrs) was awarded to Prof. Risto Pellinen (for his key role in developing space research in Finland). The fate of the Society's scientific journal "Geophysica" was debated at a panel during the event.
- The GS organises 6 meetings per year. This year, at its first meeting in March 2013, the GS celebrated the 175th anniversary of FMI (founded in March 28 1838 by a regulation of the Tsar Nikolai I). The meeting discussed the scientific and science policy factors and personalities which

influenced the early development and activities of FMI. Also the question why magnetism was strongly emphasized in the early measurement programmes was debated.

- The Society also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Sodankylä Observatory (SGO, founded 1913), dedicated to geophysical measurements and research. Some measurements had already made there in 1882-84 during the first international Polar Year. Nowadays the Observatory performs in addition to Earth magnetic field, measurements on cosmic radiation, cosmic radio disturbances, and seismic activity. It is an independent Dept. of the University of Oulu. The SGO is working also with the FMI's Sodankylä Arctic Research Centre on the same premises through coordinating use of facilities.

SMR, Romania

- The activity of Society was re-inforced in 2012, with changes in the statute and board. Among the notable enterprises of the last year is the relaunch of the website that presents a user-friendly interface with information about statute, current activities, and plans: <http://smr.meteoromania.ro/>
- The new President is Dr. Florinela Georgescu; Dr. Constanța Boroneanț and Dr. Sorin Cheval are the RMS Vice-presidents.
- The website hosts the Meteorological Bulletin, a four-yearly publication that contains sections meant to promote the Romanian meteorology or - more generally - environment protection, and that also contains a section aimed to experts in this field, one for book reviews, one for severe weather etc.
- A special section of the website is the Romanian Meteorology Bibliography that collects titles by Romanian authors. The main objective is the buildup to a comprehensive bibliographical information database that would be useful for the entire professional community and for anyone interested in the development of meteorology in Romania. This project runs indefinitely in time, presently there are about 100 titles; the main difficulty is the lack of volunteers that would enter the data into the required format.
- On 8 and 9 November, 2012, the Society co-organized the Annual Scientific Session of the National Meteorological Administration, where it has awarded the Prize of Society to Ms. Mihaela-Silvana Ridichie, for her work "Using the BMA method for the calibration of extreme temperature forecasts created by the MOS_EPS model, for Romania".
- On December 26, 2012, together with the Technical Sciences branch of the Romanian Academy, and its Renewable Energies Commission, the SMR took part in organizing the round table "Workshop of Romanian members of COST ES1002 Action – Weather Intelligence for Renewable Energies (WIRE)".
- Between 1 and 5 April, 2013, members took part in the Program "Know much, be better!", within which students of more than 20 primary and secondary schools in Bucharest and all over the country visited the facilities of the National Meteorological Administration, where they have received detailed, professional explanations of the activities run within the meteorological station Bucuresti-Baneasa and by the National Centre of Meteorological Forecast.

MMT, Hungary

- Membership: 601 (2012)
- MMT has corporate member agreements with three legal entities: 3 (OMSZ - Hungarian Meteorological Service, MH GEOSZ - Geographical Information System of the Hungarian Army, Hungarocontrol - Hungarian Air Navigation Service); finding new legal entities is an ongoing activity.
- New established regional group: Nyíregyháza, 5 regional groups in total (Debrecen, Pécs, Szeged, Szombathely, Nyíregyháza)
- Members get the "Atmosphere" periodical (in Hungarian) regularly.
- Meetings altogether: 39 (2012), 19 (2013 first half-year).
- Presentations: 70 (2012), 31 (2013 first half-year).
- Remarkable meetings:
 - The *34. Regular Meeting (General Assembly)* was organised together with the *VII. Forest and Climate Conference* (Debrecen, 29-31 August, 2012), with the focal theme: Utilization of meteorological knowledge in practice.
 - Participants: 66; Presentations: 34 oral, 10 posters.
 - Second Human biometeorological conference 2013* (Budapest, 23-24 May, 2013), 50 years after the first one, jointly organised with the Hungarian Balneology Association and Hungarian Hygienic Society; Participants: 36, Presentations: 23 oral, 5 posters.
- Collaboration agreement with the Hungarian Geological Society to establish a new scientific association of the associations operating in the field of earth sciences named: *Earth Science Association*

PTG, Poland

- Membership of the meteorological section: 50
- PTG-Met Section organises open lectures.

NVBM, The Netherlands

- NVBM publishes a quarterly magazine.
- It organised a “mini”-symposium this March.
- In November a symposium on the topic of “Weather at sea” will be held.
- NVBM is preparing a Linked-In site.

DMG, Germany

- The organisational structure of DMG has not changed since re-unification almost 25 years ago, which also meant a merging of meteorological communities. It will now be restructured and modernised and the aim is to improve communication within the membership.
- DMG will have a new president from January 2014 (Gudrun Rosenhagen, Hamburg)
- The Meteorologische Zeitschrift (published together with ÖGM and SGM) will be Open Access from 2014 on.
- Two internal publications: *Mitteilungen DMG*, a newsletter for members, and *PROMET*, a scientific thematic focus for each issue, in collaboration with DWD Weather Service.

HMS, Greece

- HMS is preparing for the organisation of the COMETAC conference 2014 (International Conference on Meteorology, Climatology and Atmospheric Physics); it will take place in Heraklion in May 2014; conference language is English.
- HMS will organise a workshop in the Planetarium of Athens.
- HMS is organising regular meetings with lectures.

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 provide such information regularly to the editorial board for publication on the EMS website.

10. AOB

No issues were discussed under this item.

11. Time and Place of next General Assembly

The 16th EMS General Assembly will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, on Sunday, 5 October 2014.

Martina Junge
31 October 2013

ANNEX I: Decision by the 15th EMS General Assembly

GA15.01 *Recording of General Assembly decisions:* The General Assembly agreed that starting with this 15th Session all decisions are recorded in the same formal way, independent of any higher or lower relevance. A listing of all decisions will be appended to the minutes, with numbering in the order in which the decisions occur in the minutes. Numbers will start from 1 for each General Assembly. Resolutions can still be adopted by the General Assembly for specific and important texts: this will then be a decision of the General Assembly to make it a resolution.

GA15.02 *Approval of Bureau and Council Report September 2012 – September 2013 (Entlastung):* The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau and Council for the period September 2012 – September 2013.

GA15.03 *Approval of the Report of the Treasurer (Entlastung):* The General Assembly approved the Report of the Treasurer.

GA15.04 *Auditor appointment:* The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2013.

GA15.05 *Council composition 2013 – 2015:* The General Assembly elected the Czech Meteorological Society (ČMeS), represented by Tomas Halenka, the Portuguese Association for Meteorology and Geophysics (APMG), represented by Luís Pesanha, and the Geofysikkojen liitto (GFL, Finland), represented by Sylvain Joffre, as Members of the EMS Council for the term autumn 2013 – autumn 2015.

GA15.06 *EMS Membership:* The General Assembly welcomed the Institut für Klima- und Wetterkommunikation (IWK), and the Association of Academic research institutions in hydrometeorology in Russia (AAU) as new EMS Associate Members.