

2nd EMS Council Meeting

Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG), Vienna, 3 March 2000

Minutes approved by the Third Council Session

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.

Participants: Tage Andersson (SMS, Norrköping), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia), Stanley Cornford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMS, Bracknell), Helga Kromp-Kolb (President of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, Vienna, for welcome address), René Morin (EMS President, SMF, Paris), Fritz Neuwirth (EMS Vice-President, ÖGM, Vienna), Miroslav Ondras (SMS, Bratislava), Tiphaine de Rosny (Expert on Conferences in Europe, SMF, Paris), Arne Spekat (EMS Executive Secretary, [minutes]), Werner Wehry (DMG, Berlin), Jon Wieringa (EMS Vice-President, NVBM, De Bilt)
Apologies: Sabino Palmieri (Societies in Italy)

Beginning: 8:45 End: 18:00

René Morin formally opened the Meeting thanking all participants for their initiative to travel to Vienna and to work again for EMS.

Helga Kromp-Kolb, the president of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie (ÖGM) which hosted this Council Meeting welcomed all participants on behalf of ÖGM and pointed out the necessity of openness, highly recommended in the current political situation in Europe and underlined the high expectations in EMS activities. On a lighter note she added that even though there may be a fight for dominance in the climate of Austria itself, involving air masses from all directions, this should by no means set an example for Meteorological Societies.

In his introductory notes, René Morin pointed out that the next steps to lift EMS off the ground are centered around finances as the key factor – the measures will comprise amongst other things companies and European bodies such as ECMWF becoming involved in EMS, conferences being organized and publications being put to the market. This will be the foundation of a developing and growing EMS influence. The 2nd Council Meeting will be one in which important groundwork will have to be done; before that, the establishment of EMS was the main focus.

Council made minor adjustments to the proposed agenda of the Meeting, adding an item for the approval of its agenda and the approval of the minutes of the 1st Council Meeting in Norrköping. Furthermore, item 1 was extended to include a financial report and Rules for travel and subsistence on EMS duty; item 2 was modified on account of the fact that the 1st EMS Annual Conference will no longer be associated with the German-Austrian-Swiss Meteorological Conference (DACH-MT 2001) but with ECAM 2001 in Budapest; a further point of order was added dealing with the time and location of the subsequent Council Meeting.

0 Approval of the agenda for the 2nd and minutes of the 1st Council Meeting

Council approved the modified agenda (8/0/0) and the minutes of the 1st Council Meeting held 15 September 1999 in Norrköping (8/0/0).

1 Report of the Council Member's activities

1.1 Activities 1 and 2 (details: cf. Council Meeting Norrköping)

For activities 1 and 2 work Fritz Neuwirth reported work in progress, with a substantial intensification in the next months.

1.2 Activity 3

For activity 3 René Morin reported

- Contacts with the European Geophysical Society including a meeting with EGS General Secretary Arne Richter at the EMS Secretariat in Berlin; outcome: co-organization and administrative assistance of EGS for EMS-sponsored conferences, informal strategic alliance between EMS and EGS.
- A business meeting was held at the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach including the AMS Acting President James Kimpel, the AMS Past Executive Director Richard Hallgren, the AMS Executive Director Ron McPherson, the AMS Director for the Atmospheric Policy Program Richard Greenfield, and on behalf of EMS himself, Werner Wehry and Arne Spekat; outcome: establishment of cordial relationships between AMS and EMS, co-organization of conferences, mutual information – Werner Wehry reported about a second business meeting including AMS Deputy Executive Director Keith Seitter, AMS Meetings Director Yale Schiffmann and on behalf of EMS himself and Arne Spekat; outcome: co-operations e.g. in the fields of publication, in particular the inclusion of major news on EMS (not on single societies) in the AMS Bulletin, and probably with AMS being the agent for EMS publications comparable to the AMS-WMO agreement.
- At the AMS Annual Meeting, René Morin was given the honour to announce EMS at the Conference Luncheon which hosted some 800 participants; he also was Honourable Guest at the AMS Conference Banquet.
- Participation in the Organizing Committee for the European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) 2001 in Budapest; outcome: EMS will be involved in the ECAM organization; the 1st Annual Meeting of the EMS will be held in conjunction with the ECAM 2001; EMS will have joint half-day sessions with ECAM; there were first steps to invoke EMS involvement in other European Conferences, such as the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC).
- Presence of EMS at the WMO 50th Anniversary in Geneva and the subsequent Meteorological Festival in Geneva and Paris.

1.3 Activity 4 and 5 – including COST Action 721

For activities 4 and 5 Jon Wieringa reported about the Meeting of the COST Technical Committee in Brussels on 1 October 1999, where comments of the Directors of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services on details of the proposed COST Action 721 on meteorological education in schools, quality control of media weather presentation and accreditation of meteorologists caused activities to redraft it. A Working Group including Artemios Athanassakis (high school teachers training expert, Athens), Zoltan Dunkel (COST Secretariat), Fritz Neuwirth (COST Technical Committee and EMS), Vincent Pircher (Météo France), Arne Spekat (EMS), Charles Duncan (RMS) and Jon Wieringa (EMS) was set up for this task. It will meet in Vienna on 30 and 31 March 2000. Werner Wehry mentioned the relevant DMG action of setting up a Quality Group for companies. However, companies are no target of the present accreditation action which primarily deals with meteorological

consultants, and which must also consider that for media presentators the AMS has a separate program, the Seal of Approval. On the status of the CMet scheme in particular, the best informed person at RMS is David Axford. ICWED seems not to be aware that accreditation has been dealt with by the AMS since 1957, and by three European societies since about 1990.

The treasurer emphasized that it was essential that, in laying plans for education and accreditation through the COST Action, thought was given in parallel as to how resources were going to be found to implement the plans. Meteorological Societies had few resources for this, EMS is unlikely to have generated much by the relevant time. The only source was the NMHSs. Therefore we must carry them with us. However, it is difficult to discuss this matter with them as long as it is proclaimed in ICWED by some, that they are uncertain about the appropriateness of such a COST project. Tactful lobbying is therefore necessary in all countries.

The next meeting of the COST Technical Committee will be in early May 2000. The subsequent discussion pointed out that, though COST is not prioritizing this aspect, a sustainable network of institutions has to be created – a good example being the long-term co-operations in radar meteorology after a COST action in that field.

1.4 Financial report

The current financial situation of EMS was discussed based on tables and graphical material prepared by the EMS Secretariat and the EMS Treasurer. It was decided that subscriptions for 2000 will again be collected by the EMS Secretariat taking into account the cash flow and the financial status of EMS at the end of the year. Furthermore, the importance of additional income by conferences, publications, modifications in membership regulations, donations was underlined. A draft financial plan updated for 2001 and 2002 will be prepared by the Treasurer and circulated in due time before the next EMS Council Meeting. Similarly, the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary will devise and circulate rules of procedure for financial transactions.

1.5 Travel and subsistence allowances for travel on EMS duty

Based on the regulations at ECWWMF, with modifications mainly dealing with which type of travel will be considered as being on EMS duty these rules and tables were presented to Council. It was suggested that in view of the financial constraints of EMS and to give a positive signal of the voluntary nature of the work of Member Societies and EMS, the President would claim only 75% of the tabulated values in Group 1 and the others 75 % in Group 2. For countries not included in the lists, including the kilometric allowance list, 75% of the appropriate UN rates will be used.

2 Conferences

In sponsoring, organizing or co-organizing conferences, EMS will set meteorology in a European perspective in ways which are more effective that can be done by a single Member Society. On the same basis, EMS will provide increased opportunities for world-level conferences to be held in Europe. EMS will also co-operate with non-European Societies. However, if this policy brings EMS into competition with non-European Societies then Council agreed that “co-operation does not exclude competition” .

On the one hand, owing to EMS’ financial constraints, conferences in which EMS is involved will have to be carefully selected and support should, at least in the near future, strategically be restricted more to the moral than to the funding support of such a conference. On the other hand, EMS must improve its visibility and thus must not be too hesitant in selecting and participating. It was stressed that future decisions to co-sponsor or co-organize Conferences, like other main decisions of EMS, require a formal mandate of the Council.

2.1 European Conference on Radar Meteorology (ERAD), autumn 2000 in Bologna

It is still under debate in EMS Member Societies, whether this emerging series of conferences is appropriate for EMS support, though at least the encouragement to participate in it shall be given. For the time being, the European Geophysical Society will be co-organizing ERAD administratively.

2.2 Education Conference (EWOC) July 2003 in Madrid

It is the upcoming conference in this series of world-wide held meetings. Frequency: every four years. RMS has been highly involved since it co-organized the first conference in Oxford in 1984. EMS will be developing education as one of its core activities and will therefore be partaking in the EWOC organization; Werner Wehry is already involved.. A vote of (8/0/0) was cast in favor of this EMS co-operation.

2.3 EMS Conference in conjunction with ECAM 2001

Though at first planned to be held in conjunction with the German-Austrian-Swiss DACH-MT in 2001, which is organized by *Meteorological Societies* from these countries, the EMS Conference was shifted to the ECAM 2001 in Budapest, chiefly because of its broader European scope, its topical proximity to EMS and the favourable support of the ECAM-IPC members.

Council voted (8/0/0) to hold the EMS conference in conjunction with ECAM2001 and to devote it to the review of the “future co-operation in meteorology in Europe, including its social, economical, scientific, technological and industrial aspects”.

EMS is represented in the ECAM/EMS-Conference organizing committee by René Morin, Fritz Neuwirth and Werner Wehry. The aim is to organize at least two half-days, jointly with ECAM. It should take into account, though, that they are not generating the impression that the EMS Conference precedes ECAM. Therefore the best opportunity to adequately present EMS will be in the afternoon of the first and the morning of the second day of the conference. The invitation of representatives e.g. from the industry is envisaged. The official title, also printed on top of the ECAM logo will be: 1st EMS Annual Meeting.

2.4 Other Conferences

The offer of the organizers of the of the 26th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology (ICAM), to be held from 11 to 15 September 2000 in Innsbruck, Austria, to include EMS as a moral sponsor of it and at least include the EMS logo in the collection of supporters was well taken by the Council.

Tiphaine de Rosny from SMF made a presentation of conferences, ordered by recurrence frequency, that could be of interest to EMS. Council agreed to extend the EMS web presentation by introducing a Conference Calendar based on Mlle. de Rosny’s selections, the listings in the RMS’s *Meteorological Applications*, the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, the AGU and other sources, being actively supported by the EMS Secretariat and all Council Representatives. This comprehensive list will also be useful to many conference organizers identifying potential overlap of conferences.

As a possible candidate for EMS involvement, a conference on Tornadoes in Europe, to be held in 2002 was noted, though it appears that the same subject is covered by the European and African Conference on Wind Engineering, planned half a year earlier. Furthermore, EMS has already been approached with the aim to play a role in the European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC). Other candidates are of regional nature, e.g. focused on the Mediterranean Sea or on Alpine Meteorology. Further enquiries will be made with a view to putting some or all of these conferences forward for Council’s approval at some time in future.

3 Other EMS Activities

3.1 International Student Exchange

The EMS can become a forum for information, based on the European Catalogue of Training Opportunities in Europe (ECTOM); this would be highly appreciated by students. Financial support is given or planned on the level of EMS Member Societies already.

3.2 Scientific Journal

Though the 1st EMS Annual Meeting would be an opportunity to launch a journal it was argued that up until now no striking concept has been proposed from within EMS. A new journal would face a very tight market – possible niches are in the fields of existing popular publications of Member Societies, such as *Weather* or *La Météorologie*. Alternatively or in addition, the mutual and price-reduced access to Journals published by Member Societies can be envisaged. The whole question, however, was left to a future occasion. Another strategy would be to put incentive in a journal that already exists, thus turning it into a European Journal, though any change in its title may cause customers to cancel subscriptions. Yet another strategy would be the publication of a peer reviewed Conference Series, perhaps in conjunction with a commercial publisher. The EGS has already offered to be a point of contact for such an endeavour. But a European Meteorological journal is not in sight in the immediate future. Council agreed to keep the idea, and to bear in mind the cost-efficiency side of it.

3.3 Cooperation with other Societies

This topic was dealt with in René Morin's report of activities (see 1.2). He also plans to have contacts with the E.U. as soon as possible.

4 Associated Societies

Societies who do not wish to become EMS Member or cannot afford it at the moment will henceforth not be considered as Associated Members of EMS. They will, nevertheless, be regularly informed about EMS development and activities.

5 Status of Companies

The term "associated" will in the future be used to denote the distinct status of involvement in EMS from the industry sector or from organizations (contacts are emerging e.g. with ECMWF and EUMETSAT). In principle, this will require a change in the EMS Constitution. No decision has been made as to the type of representation, e.g. whether the representative of an associated body would have the status of an observer, would be given the right to speak or to vote at either the General Meeting or the Council. There was no suggestion that such representatives would have a vote in either the Council or the General Meeting. These matters should be addressed at the next General Meeting.

6 The French *College of Presenters*

The French College of Presenters is an SMF subgroup. Members of this College should be SMF Members, then accept its code of conduct, be professional presenters and are admitted by a jury. The aim is to develop and consolidate the profession. The College has been so far opened to French speaking presenters, but may be open to English speaking presenters. Its Secretary General is François Fandoux. He is also (but it is a separate activity) the Organizer of the very successful Festival of Meteorology held annually, where presenters from all over the world meet for conferences, round table and prize awards. François Fandoux is applying to be an observer to EMS. Council proposed to examine this request in a sub-body led by Tanja Cegnar, a TV weather presenter herself. She would be travelling to meetings of this

sub-body on EMS duty. Terms of reference will have to be drawn up and all EMS Members will have to be informed and asked to nominate potential members of this sub-body. It is planned to add one of its members to Council as an observer.

A letter to the College of Presenters shall be written by the EMS President underlining the EMS interest and pointing out that EMS will have to improve its basic knowledge about activities of the College, before a closer co-operation can be invoked.

7 Formal additions to the EMS Constitution

A proposal to include minor alterations in the wording of the EMS Constitution, which are required to accelerate the EMS registration as an “eingetragener Verein” (registered association) in Germany, was made. It was agreed that these changes are necessary and that a modified version of the Constitution, including an explanation of the Term “eingetragener Verein” will be proposed at the next EMS General Meeting for approval.

A change in wording, requiring that the EMS must dispose of all its means in case of loss of German tax exempt status, which was asked for by the German Tax Authorities will have to be reconsidered, though and was not approved by Council. Werner Wehry will seek clarification on that matter.

8 Rules of Procedure

The President reported that there has been discussion as to the nature of the Council. It was confirmed that, as stated in the Constitution, although EMS is a Society of Societies, its “Council consists of individuals appointed” for a specified time (see also § 5.3.2. stating: The Council shall elect ... from individual members of the council ...three vice-presidents). Societies should try to keep the same Representative as long as possible, so as to ensure continuity. Agreement was reached that for the Representative of a Society which is to be sent to Council, also a Deputy needs to be named by the Society. According to time constraints, this matter was not fully dealt with in plenary – a smaller working group finalized the Rules of Procedure for the EMS Council after the closure of the Council Meeting. The amended Rules will be presented to the next EMS General Meeting for approval.

9 EMS Web Pages

The inclusion of a Conference Calendar was dealt with in section 2.4 of these minutes. Date and location of the next EMS Council and General Meeting will have to be added to the web site (see section 12). In addition it was decided that the web address of the EMS will have to change soon, bearing in mind that (i) it ought to be short, simple and easily associated with EMS and (ii) it ought to be not at a national web domain but either at .int or .org or .eu – Stanley Cornford and Arne Spekat will get in touch with ECMWF for a possible solution.

10 Election of new Officers

Owing to the Start up Procedure established in the EMS Constitution, a few Council Members will have to be exchanged after one year. It was agreed to suggest that the Slovak Meteorological Society might pass the torch to the Czech Meteorological Society, that the Slovenian Meteorological Society might be succeeded by the Croatian Meteorological Society and that the Swedish Meteorological Society will identify a successor from either Finland or Iceland. The re-election of any Members (other than the Permanent Members) to the Council is not precluded. Any new Member of Council will send its Representative to the first Council Meeting following September 2000.

11 Miscellaneous

The next EMS Newsletter will have to be printed soon. The texts will include an introductory address by the EMS president, report from the EMS-AMS business meeting in Long Beach, a

report on the EMS finances, updates from the EMS Member Societies and a report about the 2nd Council Meeting. It will be printed at Météo France again; the publication date will be subject to the capacity of their printing office.

Clarification with respect to the Meteorological Society of Denmark, an EMS Member which withdrew from its membership in October 1999, is expected from their Annual Meeting in March 2000.

12 Next EMS Council Meeting

The next Meeting of the EMS Council will be on 10 July 2000 in Cambridge. The next General Meeting will be held on 11 July 2000. Though these Meetings will take place in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Meteorological Society and a Conference held to celebrate it, the participants of EMS Council and General Meetings are not required to register for the conference, though they were encouraged to do so and join in the whole week. Stanley Cornford will transmit details of this arrangement to the EMS Secretariat.

Arne Spekat, 9 May 2000