

9th Meeting of the EMS Council
Rome, Italy, 17 September 2003
Minutes approved by the 10th Council Session

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 7 Councillors present was met. In fact 9 Councillors were present.

Present:

Councillors

David Axford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMS, Reading), Renato Carvalho (APMG, Lisbon), Otilia Diaconu (SMR, Bucharest), Zoltan Dunkel (MMT, Budapest), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Praha), Raino Heino (GS, Helsinki), René Morin (EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Hans Richner (SGM, Zurich), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin).

Observers/Experts/Guests

Tanja Cegnar (Chair, EMS Media Committee), Dominique Marbouty (observer, ECMWF), Stefano Michelletti (observer – for the service providers), Fritz Neuwirth (observer – for the National Weather Services), Richard Pettifer (guest, RMS), Bob Riddaway (Chair, EMS Publications Committee), Johannes Schmetz (observer, Eumetsat).

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

Beginning: 09:00 End: 13:00

1. Welcome

Werner Wehry opened the Council Meeting and welcomed the Councillors and the representatives of EMS Committees and of EMS Associate Members. He outlined the importance of the process towards the next EMS Annual Meetings which is a major effort, in particular for launching it in 2004.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by a vote of (9/0/0).

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 8th Council Meeting

The Minutes of the 8th Council Meeting in Berlin were accepted by a vote of (9/0/0).

4.1 Continuation of the EMS Past President

The EMS Council passed resolution C57 (8/0/1) and René Morin was confirmed as vice president with the honorary title *EMS Past President*.

4.2. Composition of the EMS Council

The EMS Council passed resolution C58 (8/0/1) prolonging the term for Vice President Raino and inviting the Meteorological Societies from Greece and Spain to sending Councillors for two years terms each. The Greek Councillor will most probably be Nikos Prezerakos and the Spanish Councillor will be Rosa Maria Rodriguez.

4.3 Chair of the EMS Meetings Committee

The EMS Council thanked the outgoing Chair of the EMS Committee, Dominique Marbouty, for his energetic input and much appreciated work with respect to the EMS Annual Meeting of the past and present and in particular towards a reformed EMS Annual Meeting. His successor, Hans Sandebring, had been elected at the 8th Council Meeting in Berlin.

4.4 Chair of the EMS Publications Committee

The EMS Council passed resolution C59 (9/0/0) and Bob Riddaway was elected as Chair of the EMS Publications Committee.

5. Report of the EMS Bureau and Secretariat

The EMS Bureau reported about a number of steering activities, e.g., towards the EMS Annual Meetings. They were also successful in attracting new Associate Members – in 2004 the National Weather Services of Italy (UGM) and Germany (DWD) will join (see also item 7.2). Contacts, e.g., with the American Meteorological Society were cultivated and the visibility of EMS was improved by giving a number of awards (see also item 6.2). The EMS Council thanked the Bureau Members for their work. The EMS Executive Secretary reported about his administrative and contextual activities. Since the EMS Committees are developing there is a growing demand for the assistance of the Executive Secretary with respect to their activities as well. For the bookkeeping aspect of his work it was suggested to consider the purchase of an accounting software. The EMS Council thanked the Executive Secretary for his work.

6. EMS Committees

Note: Chairs of the Committees are reminded that for each Council Meeting and General Assembly a report should be submitted about 6-8 weeks in advance for timely distribution to the Societies and for inclusion in the working papers.

6.1 Accreditation

The current state of affairs for the Accreditation Committee was summarized by the Chair as “work in progress”. Efforts to acquiring a grant for a benchmark study were, unfortunately, not successful. However, there are promising signals that the National Vocational Qualification (NVO) system, which deals with the standards for forecasters and presenters, will become officially recognized by the end of 2003 and it is expected to become widely accepted. It was pointed out that the recognition by the EU is paramount. The Chair furthermore reported about a questionnaire action in the Committee and about the recent developments in the AMS certification programme. AMS is quite interested in the European strategies, since they face a comparable situation as in Europe: The old meteorologists, unlike their younger colleagues, are not very much interested in certification programmes or their renewal.

Committees composition: John Thompson is willing to join the Accreditation Committee. Furthermore, it was announced that the Météo France Member will withdraw, but a successor will be identified – the contacts will be co-ordinated by René Morin. Moreover, Raino Heino will seek contact in the Nordic countries for the identification of a Committee Member or at least a report on Accreditation practices and requirements. Hans Richner requested that IACETH ought to be deleted in his entry in the Committee membership list.

6.2 Awards

Awards are adding very effectively to the visibility of EMS. Since 2001, a number of Young Student Travel Awards have been given, which are intended as a support to cover part of the travel cost to a conference, usually on the order of 300 to 400 €. During the 3rd EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM in Rome the Young Scientist Award was launched and two winners (from the U.K. and from Italy) received a prize money of 1000 € each and the reimbursement of potential travelling costs.

The Awards Committee has two responsibilities: Assigning the amounts to be awarded and selecting the winners. Its work is carried out by telecommunication and mailing of material, exclusively. Council discussed the future size and composition of the Awards Committee and it was concluded that it is doing quite successful work and should continue. It was suggested that one Member from the Nordic countries, maybe from Denmark might be added. The financial backing was also discussed. Flexibility is highly necessary, though the Treasurer would like to see an overall sum and give the Committee the liberty to assign it to the various Awards.

6.3 Education

The new Committee Chair Tomas Halenka reported about the very successful contribution of the Committee Members to the EWOC Conference 7-11 July in Madrid. Furthermore, a Committee Meeting took place after the EWOC, the main items being (i) the handing-over of the Chairmanship from Jon Wieringa to Tomas Halenka; (ii) the decision to continue focusing on school education with a possible involvement in the EU's 6th Framework Programme and on meteorology at the universities with the update of the ECTOM data base; (iii) the decision to publish the EWOC-papers by the Education Committee Members in a forthcoming issue of the EMS Publication Series; (iv) the decision to have (at least one) education session with about 10 oral presentations and 10 posters at the EMS 4th Annual Meeting in Nice.

6.4 Media

The Chair, Tanja Cegnar, reported about a Media Committee meeting in Rome on 15 September 2003. She thanked the colleagues from Italy, in particular Anna Maria Siani and Sabino Palmieri, for organizing it. A number of Committee members unfortunately had to cancel their participation on quite a short note. At its meeting the Committee acknowledged that its Terms of Reference, as presented to the 5th EMS Council in September 2001 in Budapest, are rather broad; the Committee devised a more focused set of priorities and activities. It should be borne in mind that the Committee addresses a community which does not fully overlap with the National Meteorological Societies. Furthermore, settling for just one language for the Committee's work remains to be a major problem.

One of the points discussed was the potential to issue public statements and press releases. It was agreed that material addressing the general public should be prepared e.g. by the the Media Committee and that it will have to be routed via the EMS Council which will organize, if necessary, press conferences as well. The EMS Executive Secretary will be in charge with the web publication of this material.

As to the presentation of its activities, the Media Committee is in a bit of a dilemma: A good placement for attracting interested scientists will be conferences, such as the 4th EMS Annual Meeting; a good placement for attracting Committee Members will be at media-related conferences such as the IABM-WMO Media Conference in Barcelona in 2004.

John Thompson announced that he is willing to join the EMS Media Committee.

The modified Terms of Reference were accepted with a (9/0/0) vote.

Much more than just a note. It is this reporters sad duty to report the following: On 27 October 2003, Francois Fandoux, TV weather presenter, initiator of the International Weather Festival and prominent member of the EMS Media Committee has passed away.

6.5 Meetings

With the new Chair of the EMS Meetings Committee, Hans Sandebring, installed, the preparations for the 4th EMS Annual Meeting enter a crucial stage: The first announcement, which is a Call-for-Programme to be launched in mid-November 2003. Werner Wehry and Arne Spekat reported about a meeting of the ECAC Advisory Board (EAB) in Berlin which clearly reflected the stance of several communities: Without a precedent, there is reluctance to embrace the EMS Annual Meeting concept which incorporates existing conferences (among them are ECAC and ECAM) as parts and partners. Furthermore, some communities are drawn between the desire to stay among themselves and the attractiveness of a multidisciplinary conference. It was underlined that much creative input is required from individuals, Societies and Associate Members to make a colourful and interesting EMS Annual Meeting happen.

It is favourable to have established good relations to other European Conferences such as ERAD (Radar Meteorology) or ECSS (Severe Storms) in the past. Though they have fixed their 2004 locations a while ago there are contacts towards the harmonization of their future conferences with the EMS Annual Meeting.

In November 2003 there will be a conference in Brussels celebrating 150 years of Meteorological conferences. The former EMS Vice President and Treasurer, Stan Cornford as well as the EMS President, Werner Wehry, will give welcome addresses and presentations. The same occasion will have tribute paid to in Lisbon by a conference on international co-operation in meteorology.

6.6 Publications

The Royal Meteorological Society had nominated Bob Riddaway who was the editor of *Meteorological Applications* for seven years as a candidate for the EMS Publications Committee chair. He was present at the Council Meeting. The ensuing discussion focused on the opportunities for a scientific journal run by EMS. Its marketability highly depends on the identification of a target audience and the carving of a fitting niche in the journal market. It was pointed out that the Publications Committee would be responsible for *all* EMS publications, among which are the Newsletter and the EMS web site. Resolution C59 was passed (9/0/0) and Bob Riddaway was elected as the new Chair of the EMS Publications Committee.

6.7 Strategic Development Group

Owing to time constraints this matter was postponed until the next EMS Council Meeting.

7. Membership

7.1 New Member Societies and Associate Members

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on a meeting in which the development of the Italian Meteorological Societies' involvement in EMS was discussed and which took place on 28 February 2003 in Rome at the Italian National Research Council. He furthermore reported on the status of those Societies which were invited to join EMS. The EMS Past President reminded that the EMS "area" is WMO Region VI which includes potential further Member Societies.

7.2 Membership drive

In order to pursue the EMS Membership drive, it was re-iterated that names of potential Members and Associate Members ought to be submitted to those responsible for the Membership drive, i.e., René Morin and Raino Heino. It was further remarked that in order to attract companies of various size, a sliding scale for the membership fee would be advisable. A proposal is annexed to these minutes (Appendix B).

8. Finances

8.1 Financial Report

The EMS Treasurer reported about the state of the EMS finances and presented budget plans for the subsequent years. He requested that an electronic accountancy systems should be purchased. As for the auditing, he requested that the name and signed report of the auditor should be presented to Council. As for the EMS bank account, he pointed out that an option with good interest rates should be identified. The Treasurer was thanked for his work and Resolution C60 was voted (9/0/0).

8.2 Financial Planning

EMS is in a situation where – under the constraints of a balanced budget – there is a high need to increase expenditure and currently not much potential for a major increase in income. The latter gradually might come from publications and, more so, from meetings organization. Council thanked the EMS Treasurer for the financial planning document and Resolution C61 was voted (9/0/0).

9. Miscellaneous

Owing to time constraints, there was only one topic briefly discussed, which is the feasibility of EMS issuing statements. It was discussed if, e.g. with respect to the co-existence of public and private service provision in meteorology, such a statement should be issued or whether EMS should be neutral. The possibility was not ruled out and John Thompson was asked to submit a revised draft text to be annexed to these minutes (cf. ANNEX C), taking into account existing statements, e.g. by WMO.

10. Time and place of the next Council Session

The 10th EMS Council will convene in Bucharest in spring 2004. The Romanian Meteorological Society proposed that the date should be near the World Meteorology Day, thus the Council is planned to convene during two days within the period 20...23 March 2004.

Werner Wehry closed the 9th EMS Council Meeting at 13:00

Arne Spekat

Appendix A

Resolutions

C57

This Council confirms René Morin as a Vice President with the Honorary Title *EMS Past President*.

C58

With this 9th Session of Council, the terms for two Councillors end: Renato Carvalho, APMG, Portugal and Hans Richner, SGM, Switzerland. EMS most warmly thanks them for their activities and asks them to remain in their current Committee activities. The two-year term of Raino Heino, GS, Finland would end in 2003 as well, but since he is an EMS Vice-President he will remain in Council. This Council proposes to the EMS General Assembly the following successors which are invited to join the EMS Council for a two-year term, starting at the 10th Session of Council in spring 2004: Rosa Maria Rodriguez, AME, for the Societies from Spain and Nicholas Prezerakos, HMH, Greece.

C59

This Council elects Bob Riddaway as the next Chair of the Publications Committee

C60

This Council approves the Report of the Treasurer.

C61

This Council approves the projected EMS budget for 2004.

Appendix B

Proposed fees for EMS Associate Members according to their number of employees

< 10	employees	200 €
11-20	employees	400 €
21-30	employees	600 €
31-40	employees	800 €
> 41	employees	1000 €

Drafted by John Thompson, WNI

Appendix C

First draft of a working text on the co-existence of public and private meteorological and climatological services, author John Thompson, WNI:

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) believes that in meteorology- and climate-related services throughout Europe there should be opportunities for private companies to participate fully and freely in the provision of value-added services.

EMS further considers that the existence of a monopolistic or near-monopolistic situation in these markets is detrimental not only to the development of meteorology and climatology but also to the economies of those nations in which such a situation exists.

In the same way as liberalisation of telecommunications markets throughout Europe has led to increasing benefits and choices for the consumers and the generation of significant employment opportunities, EMS is firmly of the opinion that similar benefits will result from the free and open competition in the provision of meteorological and climatological services.

EMS therefore urges and encourages all European nations to allow free participation in the market for meteorological and climatological services and to allow access to data and products on equitable terms.