

12th Meeting of the EMS Council
Athens, Greece, 21-22 April 2005
FINAL Minutes approved by C13

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.

Present:

Councillors

Rasmus Benestad (FM, Oslo), David Axford (EMS Treasurer and Vice-President, RMetS, Reading), Raino Heino (EMS Vice President, GS, Helsinki), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (KNMI, De Bilt), Nikos Prezerakos (HMH, Athens), René Morin (EMS Past President, SMF, Paris), Werner Wehry (EMS President, DMG, Berlin). Apologies: Rosa Maria Rodriguez (Met Societies from Spain, Madrid), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia)

Observers/Experts/Guests

David Burridge (Guest, RmetS, Reading), Tomas Halenka (Guest, Chair of the EMS Education Committee, CeMS, Praha), Janneke Ottens (Observer, KNMI, De Bilt, for the National Weather Services), Michael Petrakis (Guest, Greek Weather Service), Ioannis Pytharoulis (Observer, Meteognosis, for the Service Providers – 22 April)

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

21 April Beginning: 09:50; End: 17:30 (Agenda items 1-5)

22 April Beginning: 09:30; End: 12:50 (Agenda items 6-10)

1. Welcome

The Director of the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development of the National Observatory of Athens, Michael Petrakis welcomed the participants in the magnificent library of the National Observatory. He introduced the Observatory and its five institutes. In his address, the President of the Greek Meteorological Society, Nikos Prezerakos, welcomed his fellow Councillors and the observers and guests; he thanked the Observatory for its generosity and support of the Council Meeting. The EMS President then formally opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He pointed out the major importance of co-operation to which EMS can make substantial contributions in many fields. All participants briefly introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

With an addition concerning the EMS Web Site under "Miscellaneous" the Agenda was accepted by a vote of (7/0/0).

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 11th Council Meeting

The Minutes of the 11th Council Meeting in Nice were accepted with minor modifications by a vote of (7/0/0).

4. Reports of Bureau and Secretariat

The President reported about his steering, consulting and representing activities which included attending the European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) in Leon and the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in San Diego. On these occasions contacts with respect to co-operation and future associate members could be maintained or established. He furthermore thanked Eumetsat and ECMWF for their ongoing support of the EMS Annual Meetings.

The EMS Annual Meeting Series is drawing much of the attention and activity of all Bureau Members, e.g., as conveners of sessions, assisting in the identification of lecturers and exhibitors or by giving (resp. planning to give) lectures.

The EMS President, the EMS Past President and the former EMS Treasurer, Stan Cornford had been active formulating and harmonizing the EMS Mission Statement (cf. Section 5.7).

With the acceptance of a new Member (the Cyprus Meteorological Association) and a new Associate Member (Dégreane Horizon) the EMS Membership Drive continues. The Associate Membership of the Romanian National Meteorological Institute will soon begin. The contact with further Weather Services (e.g., Italy, Norway, Finland, Bulgaria and Hungary) are maintained as well as the contacts with companies (e.g., Scintec, Metek, Remtech and others) with the aim to have them join EMS as Associate Members.

The EMS Executive Secretary had been active in scientific as well as in administrative matters. This encompasses running the EMS Secretariat, its bookkeeping and its correspondence. He is furthermore the Secretary for several EMS committees. He remains deeply involved in the organizational matters of the EMS Annual Meetings which is done in co-operation with the Copernicus Organization and the COST Secretariat. There were several preparatory meetings towards the 5th EMS Annual Meeting in Utrecht. Furthermore he was active in contents matters, particularly for the EMS Meetings, Media and Publications Committee. Other activities included work for the Advisory Board of the ECAC-Conference (which, despite 2005 is not an "ECAC-year" has agreed to organize a number of climatology-related sessions at the EMS/ECAM in Utrecht), establishing contacts with a new COST Action on Weather Type Classification and, together with the Media Committee Chair, Tanja Cegnar, giving a lecture on EMS at the 1st International Weather Forum in Paris. Furthermore he was active in the identification process of the location for the 6th EMS Annual Meeting. Council thanked the Executive Secretary for his activities which enhance EMS' networking.

5. EMS Committees

*Note to the authors of reports: In order to add to the efficiency of producing the working documents well ahead of the appropriate meetings, the Chairs of the Committees should, for each Council Meeting and General Assembly, prepare and submit their reports **about 6-8 weeks in advance**. Each report should include the current Committee membership.*

5.1 Accreditation

The Chair of the Accreditation Committee, David Axford described his activities at the EMS Annual Meeting where he gave a lecture in the Education Session and chaired a meeting on accreditation underlined that following EU decision to officially recognize the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) system, the Royal Meteorological Society has become a designated authority for certification and that work is being carried out to implement the practical application scheme. After 1 November 2004, qualifications will be possible. He pointed out that anyone from anywhere can apply, since it is a EU requirement that no language restriction shall exist. More information is available on the RMS web site:

<http://www.rmets.org/pdf/cmetweb.pdf>. A side meeting during the EMS Annual Meeting was called by the Chair of the Accreditation Chair.

5.2 Awards

The Chair of the EMS Awards Committee, Werner Wehry, reported that in 2005 the available prize money makes it possible to support a number of conferences again. The EMS Annual Meeting/ECAM Conference will receive additional attention by a number of Awards launched there, e.g., the Meteo Consult Award, the KNMI Award, the Kipp and Zonen Award, each including prize money of about 1000 €. The Media Award was then discussed, underlining that they shall be given to lecturers at a conference. In 2005 one shall be given at the EMS Annual Meeting and one at the International Weather Forum 2005 in Toulouse.

5.3 Education

The Committee Chair Tomas Halenka explained the activities of the Education Committee. He reported that, concerning ECTOM II there are promising new contacts, incl. Serbia, expanding the scope of the data base. A lot of advertisement for ECTOM could be made through Climlist. He underlined that, due to the fact that the information available from universities is often obsolete or beside the point, evaluation by national ECTOM contact points is quite necessary. He also reported about a proposal by Elmar Uherek of the ESPERE programme to participate in the Education Session at the EMS5 in Utrecht.

Concerning meteorology in school education, Rasmus Benestad noted that a way forward might be if schools are encouraged to do weather observations and measurements, as it is co-ordinated by important networks such as MetLinkInternational (run by the RMetS) and GLOBE. Involving the media may add to the impact and individual Meteorological Societies could do a share of the work to overcome language problems by providing translations of education material into the Societies' native

languages – Tomas Halenka remarked that, e.g., ESPERE material is available in a number of languages.

The discussion then focused on the EWOC Conference that will be taking place in 2006 in Boulder. EMS should remain linked to it, yet for financial reasons it may be difficult to fund travelling. Giving Awards at the EWOC 2006 is the least EMS will do to support the conference. Perhaps there is additional funding through the EMS Associate Members.

Dave Burrige acknowledged the enormous and ambitious task the EMS Education Committee is undertaking; he recommended that addressing the language problem might be a third active focus of this Committee. Arne Spekat noted that we may be in a phase where being partner of a larger programme is a worthwhile alternative to being in the "drivers seat" of education activities.

Werner Wehry proposed that the activities of the EMS Education Committee should be summarized on one page which should then be distributed to stimulate the exchange of more information, e.g., with communities from geography and physics teaching and e-learning. It should also be useful to inform other Societies which are active in education, such as the Australian Meteorological Society and the AMS about the EMS education activities. Rasmus Benestad remarked that it should not be underestimated that meteorology can be part of other subjects in school, too, e.g., history. Therefore, contacts should be intensified with the ICHM as well.

The Greek member of the Education Committee, Nikos Prezerakos, announced that he wants to retire from the Education Committee. There are a lot of Greek activities concerning meteorology in school education and therefore it is highly welcome that Dr. Amantia Vlassi is willing to be his successor in the Committee.

5.4 Media

The Media Committee Chair, who could not participate in the Council Meeting, had informed Council beforehand that in 2005 the Media Session at the EMS5 in Utrecht as well as the participation of the EMS Media Committee in the International Weather Forum are among the key activities. In Utrecht, the plan is to expand the scope of the Media Session to encompass TV, radio and the internet as media for meteorological information.

As Rasmus Benestad pointed out, the public does not understand main concepts of climate change and suggested closer ties between the Media and the Education Committee, which are, as Tomas Halenka reported, being developed.

Council was made aware of Media related activities in the Netherlands, France and Finland.

5.5 Meetings

Werner Wehry, Arne Spekat and Janneke Ottens reported about the preparations for the EMS Annual Meeting/ECAM Conference in Utrecht. The organization setup is different, since in 2005 it is divided between EMS, KNMI and MeteoConsult. EMS had launched its call for programme in early 2005 and through it there was one Part and Partner Conference (the Final Conference of the VOLTAIRE Programme) and several sessions (e.g. a continuation of the boundary layer session that was added to the EMS4 in Nice and a session on scintillometry) added. The ECAM Conference will be much more focused on lectures by users of meteorological information. Most of what is not within this scope will be taken on board by the EMS Annual Meeting which focuses on application-oriented results from researchers. The joint programme will include an opening day, two and a half days of ECAM with selected EMS sessions in parallel and one and half EMS-only days. There will be additional highlights, such as a continuation of the EMS Special Session on future meteorological satellites and an ECAM Round Table on the future of the forecaster's workplace. Several COST Actions will be present (and its members supported by COST), having Working Group or Management Committee Meetings and participating in EMS sessions. During the time of the conference, the COST Technical Committee for Meteorology will convene at KNMI.

It should be noted that in 2005 there seems to be a sizeable number of conference in parallel or relatively near to the EMS5/ECAM conference, including the RmetS Conference, a Biometeorology Conference, an international database user meeting, etc. Though sometimes unavoidable, it is a rather unfortunate accumulation in 2005 and efforts should be made to better harmonize the international conferences.

For the EMS 2006 the selection process is ongoing – the candidates have been narrow down to several cities in Northern Italy, Ljubljana and Vienna, maybe augmented by Helsinki and Oslo. The EMS Executive Secretary will participate in information meetings or visit possible sites in May and June 2005. In 2006, ECAC will again be the Part and Partner of the EMS Annual Meeting. The decision process for the venue will thus be together with the ECAC Advisory Board. It will be taken in June 2005.

5.6 Publications

Due to his transition into retirement, the Chair of the Publications Committee, Bob Riddaway, was absorbed, but will have more time available to deal with EMS matters. One of his tasks should be to work on the Annual Report that EMS is going to publish. It was furthermore proposed that the Publications Committee could co-ordinate a strategic paper, maybe with additional support by others.

The EMS Executive Secretary has done a survey on publications issued by the EMS Member Societies and has placed the results onto the EMS web site.

The issue of launching an EMS journal, as well as other EMS publication matters need more attention. It is therefore proposed to circulate the discussion paper from the Bucharest Council again.

A base for a publication may be extended abstracts of the presentations given at an EMS Annual Meeting. For future conferences it should be taken into consideration to request this material from the authors, maybe together with their letter or acceptance. It should be noted, however, that many authors dislike writing extended abstracts and prefer to submit short abstracts and subsequently work on full length journal articles.

Rasmus Benestad remarked that there is a whole new presentation paradigm under development, which uses a different technology, including audio files. The Publications Committee should keep an eye on these trends.

5.7 Mission Statement

Important groundwork had been done during the EMS Annual Meeting 2004 in Nice. The EMS Council finalized this revised Mission Statement. The discussion focused on the phrasing of the EMS objectives and minor editing issues. One point that came up and may need to be included in the further outlook segment of a Vision Statement is that the points made in the Mission Statement need a revision or re-examination mechanism. This may be one of the tasks of the Strategic Development Group.

It was decided to make this Mission Statement available on the EMS web site as soon as possible. It was furthermore suggested to present this Mission Statement to the EMS General Assembly.

Resolution C75 was voted (7/0/0).

6. Finances

6.1 Financial Report

The EMS Treasurer reported about the state of the EMS finances and presented the budget projection for the remainder of 2005, as well as for 2006. Based on the financial tables and the cash flow diagram it was pointed out that EMS needs to improve its income side to avoid a deficit.

The Treasurer was thanked for his work and Resolution C76 was voted (7/0/0).

6.2 Financial Planning

The EMS Treasurer pointed out that a trend continues which remains a challenge for the future: EMS increases its activities and yet the raise in expenditure is not fully compensated by a raise in income. This will eventually lead to a negative annual budget at the end of 2006. One contributing, or, rather, reducing, factor on the income side is the gradual process of a reduction in the number of Member in National Societies. In light of the general situation, any new activity which EMS might launch or be associated with needs to be announced and discussed well in advance.

Council discussed opportunities and strategies to increase the EMS income. Establishing a journal appears to be an option, yet the probability to have a short-term net income is not very high – it takes a while for journal to get well accepted. As to conferences, the EMS Annual Meeting is on a good course, yet it has to grow to increase the EMS income. It should be noted that, provided the participation fee is intended to be in an affordable range, having 200-500 registered participants is not an optimum size; between 500 and 2000 lies the range of a conference that is generating income and beyond 2000 participants it becomes difficult again. It is important to reduce the numbers of individually organized conferences, which would help the travelling scientists as well as the exhibitors. As Tomas Halenka remarked, it adds to the visibility of EMS, since the conference strategy of AMS or EGU cannot be entirely wrong. Better visibility in turn would have favourable indirect effects, also on the income side. This visibility and heightened profile could be further increased by Awards provided by current or future Associate Members. Perhaps, publishing companies could be contacted as well?

Council thanked the EMS Treasurer for the financial planning document and Resolution C77 was voted (7/0/0).

7. Membership

7.1 New Member Societies

During the time between the 11th Council in Nice and this 12th Council, there was an application by the Cyprus Meteorological Association to join EMS. A vote by correspondence in Council was held which was in favour of that application. Council welcomed the CY.MET.A. by passing Resolution C78 (7/0/0).

7.2 New Associate Members

The company Dégreane Horizon had applied for Associate Membership and its application was accepted by a vote by correspondence in early 2005. It was welcomed in EMS and Resolution C79 was voted (7/0/0).

7.3 Membership drive

The potential of identifying further EMS Member Societies was discussed. If RA VI is considered, there are Societies in Turkey and Israel with which contacts should be increased. It is still unclear if there is a Society or - an organization such as that for Aviometeorology in Bulgaria - in the Ukraine or in Russia. Furthermore, the institutions in the Baltic States should be encouraged to form individual Societies or a joint Meteorological Society.

Potential Associate Members include weather services from a number of countries in Scandinavia, the Baltic States, and Southern Europe. In these and some other countries there are also service providers from the private sector which need to be approached. A letter to the Director of Norwegian Meteorological Institute was requested by Rasmus Benestad, and similar letters to the directors in Denmark, Finland, the Baltic States and Cyprus are a good step forward, too.

7.4 Individual Membership

The discussion of this item was postponed to the next Council Meeting.

8. Agreements

8.1 EMS-EGU

Werner Wehry reported that, according to the EGU President, Peter Fabian, a written agreement is not really required, although the opinion of his successor should be heard. Council nevertheless came to the conclusion that some kind of agreement/arrangement, e.g., with respect to the mutual exchange of information is desirable, although this could be a "soft agreement".

8.2 EMS-ICHM

Werner Wehry reported on the objectives of ICHM and the status of an agreement. As with EGU, there is a bit of a reserved position within ICHM concerning a written agreement. Tomas Halenka proposed to have an EMS rapporteur for history matters; in the future there may even be an EMS History Committee.

8.3 EMS-IABM

The new Chair of the IABM, Tomas Molina, has not yet sent any direct signals concerning a written agreement, a draft of which was sent to IABM prior to the EMS Annual Meeting in Nice. René Morin remarked that the International Weather Forum is strengthening its contacts to the IABM – Tomas Molina is in the Forum's Programme Committee.

8.4 EMS-TORRO

Exactly on the day of this 12th EMS Council Meeting, the TORRO Council is meeting as well. Werner Wehry noted that the TORRO community is different from other organizations. TORRO is more like a network of weather watchers and has many amateurs among its members; it finances its activities by donations and by the income of a journal. TORRO would probably not be a candidate for an EMS Associate Membership because they would have problems affording the Associate Membership fee. It was proposed to ask for Fulvio Stel's help and advice how to proceed. It is at any rate favourable to sustain good contacts with these kind of networks. For one they are a very good source of additional information for the forecasters' work and for two these contacts lead to good input for severe weather-related sessions at the EMS Annual Meetings.

8.5 Others

It was discussed if other networks in the severe weather community should be contacted with the aim of developing written agreements or memoranda of understanding. The overall number of agreements and its usefulness for both sides should be kept in mind. An useful alternative could be to determine rapporteurs for maintaining contacts with the respective communities.

9. Miscellaneous

9.1 The EMS Web site

After more than four years existence with constant growth but without substantial changes in its appearance and philosophy, the EMS Web site would benefit from a major overhaul that takes into account the technical possibilities that have emerged over the years. It was agreed that modernizing the web site would also attract users and potential members and associates. Experience of individual societies show that truly professional solutions require outsourcing and hence substantial amounts of money. It would be part of the task profile of the Publications Committee to devise a concept for the new EMS Web site. Heleen ter Pelkwijk proposed to include in the Committee at least one person which is quite knowledgeable in the field of web design which could be a colleague of hers from the Netherlands.

9.2 50th Anniversary of GFL (Finland)

Raino Heino informed Council that the EMS Member Geofyysikkojen Liitto (GFL) celebrates its 50th Anniversary in June 2005. It is foreseen to invite the EMS Executive Secretary to participate in the celebration.

9.3 Programme draft of the Forum International de la Météo

René Morin informs that a first draft of the programme for the Forum International de la Météo has been distributed. EMS will support the Forum by sponsoring an EMS Media Award.

9.4 Length of Council Meetings

It was seen as favourable to have time constraints but on the other hand to have time available for discussions at Council, as it is the case at an EMS spring Council. It may be worthwhile exploring if the autumn Council, normally held under comparably tight timing conditions during an EMS Annual Meeting, should also be lasting at least one full day, maybe even be put to the end of an Annual Meeting so it would not overlap with the scientific programme.

10. Time and place of the next Council Session

The 13th EMS Council will convene on 11 September 2005 at KNMI in De Bilt. It is foreseen that the Council will be held between 9:30 and 13:30 and the General Assembly will be held on the same day between 15:00 and 18:00. Local arrangements will be made by Heleen ter Pelkwijk.

Nikos Prezerakos thanked all participants for the fruitful discussions and the organizers at the Greek Weather Service for excellent support and attention. Werner Wehry closed the 12th EMS Council Meeting at 12:50.

Arne Spekat

Appendix A

Resolutions

C75 Mission Statement

C76 Approval of Treasurer's report

C77 Approval of financial planning

C78 Welcome of the Cyprus Meteorological Association as EMS Member.

C79 Welcome of Degreane Horizon as Associate Member – proposed category > 41 employees.

C75

This Council approves the EMS Mission Statement.

C76

This Council approves the Report of the Treasurer.

C77

This Council approves the projected EMS budget for 2006.

C78

Following a vote by correspondence this EMS Council welcomes the Cyprus Meteorological Association as a new EMS Member.

C79

Following a vote by correspondence this EMS Council welcomes the company Degreane Horizon, France, as a new Associate Member – it is proposed that Degreane Horizon will be in the category of Associate Members with more than 40 employees. Degreane Horizon will be in the manufacturers group of EMS Associate Members.

Appendix B

EMS MEMBER SOCIETIES:

1. *Asociación Española de Biometeorología, Spain*
2. *Asociación Meteorológica Española, Spain*
3. *Associação Portuguesa de Meteorologia e Geofísica, Portugal*
4. *Associazione Geofisica Italiana, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
5. *Associazione Italiana di AgroMeteorologia, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
6. *Aviometeorological Club (AMC), Bulgaria*
7. *Ceska Meteorologicka Spolecnost, Czech Republic*
- > 8. *Cyprus Meteorological Association, Cyprus*
9. *Dansk Meteorologisk Selskab, Denmark*
10. *Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft, Germany*
11. *Helliniki Meteorologiki Hetairia, Greece*
12. *Félag íslenskra veðurfræðinga, Iceland*
13. *Forskerforbundets meteorologiforening, Norway*
14. *Geofysiikan Seura, Finland*
15. *Geofyysikkojen Liitto, Finland*
16. *Hrvatsko Meteorolosko Društvo, Croatia*
17. *Irish Meteorological Society, Ireland*
18. *Magyar Meteorológiai Társaság, Hungary*
19. *Meteo Mak, Meteorological Association of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*
20. *Meteorolosko društvo Srbija, Serbia and Montenegro*
21. *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Beroeps Meteorologen, The Netherlands*
22. *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, Austria*
23. *Royal Meteorological Society, United Kingdom*
24. *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, Switzerland*
25. *Slovenska Meteorologicka Spolocnost, Slovakia*
26. *Slovensko Meteorolosko Društvo, Slovenia*
27. *Società Italiana di Meteorologia Applicata, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
28. *Società Meteorologica Italiana, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*
29. *Societa Meteorologica Romana, Romania*
30. *Société Météorologique de France, France*
31. *Société Royale Belge d'Astronomie, de Météorologie et de Physique du Globe, Belgium*
32. *Svenska Meteorologiska Sällskapet, Sweden*
33. *Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy (as part of UNIMET)*

ASSOCIATE EMS MEMBERS:

Permanent observer status

1. ECMWF
2. ESA
3. EUMETSAT

Group observer status – National Weather Services

4. Austria: ZAMG
5. Belgium: Royal Belgian Meteorological Institute
6. Czech Republic: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
7. France: Météo France
8. Germany: Deutscher Wetterdienst
9. Netherlands: KNMI
10. Sweden: SMHI
11. Switzerland: MeteoSwiss
12. United Kingdom: The MetOffice

Group observer status – Manufacturers

13. AerotechTelub AB
14. GEMATRONIK
15. VAISALA
16. VCS Engineering
17. Dégreane Horizon
18. MODEM
19. Campbell Scientific

Group observer status – Service providers, regional services

20. Meteo Consult B.V.
21. Meteognosis
22. OSMER: Regional Meteorological Observatory of ARPA Friuli Venezia Giulia
23. Weather News International – Oceanroutes