

19th EMS Council Session
28 September 2008
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Minutes of 12 November 2008
approved by the 20th Council Session

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

David Burridge (Chair (EMS President, RMetS UK))
Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG Germany, Vice President and Treasurer)
Raino Heino (GS Finland, EMS Vice President)
Manuel Rosa Dias (APMG, Portugal)
Claude Pastre (SMF, France)
Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)
Vesna Petković (SMD, Serbia)
Joanna Wibig (PTG, Poland)
Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)
Walter Zwiefelhofer (ECMWF, permanent observer)
Howard Lyne (Chair Accreditation Committee, RMetS)
Frank Grooters (observer for NMS; KNMI)
Fritz Neuwirth (OeGM, Austria)
Bob Riddaway (Chair Publications Committee, RMetS UK)
Tomas Halenka (Chair Educations Committee, CMeS Czech Republic)
Walter Dabberdt (AMS President, guest)
Dario Giaiotti (Chair Awards Committee, UMFVG)

8 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

Duration of meeting: 28 September 2008 9:00 – 12:30

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President welcomed all participants to the 19th EMS Council Session and thanked them for being available at such an early hour on a Sunday morning.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (**Annex I**).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 18th Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 18th session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (**Annex XVI**).

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session and also the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council. (**Annex II**). Printed copies of the EMS Annual Report 2007 were available at the meeting.

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (**Annex III**) which were strongly focussed on the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2008. 770 abstracts had been received, 320 participants pre-registered for the conference and about 600 participants were expected. Due to the high costs for rooms and technical support at the conference centre, lower income expected from exhibitors, additional expenditure for gifts to convenors and cross-financing of the conference dinner from the conference budget, a substantial loss has to be expected which may to a large extent be covered by the financial support from KNMI for the conference.

6. Report of the Treasurer

The Financial report as given by the Treasurer to the EMS Council is provided in **Annex IV**.

Financial Accounts 2007

- The EMS bank account shows 59,970.48 Euro as of 31 December 2007, with a 15,026.19 Euro surplus of income over expenditure for the financial year 2007.
- The settlement of the seventh EMS Annual Meeting and eighth European Conference on Applications of Meteorology 2007 in San Lorenzo de El Escorial could not be completed by 31 December 2007 and additional income from the EMS Annual Meeting 2007 was received in 2008. The total income from the EMS Annual Meeting 2007 was therefore 76,234.32 €.
- The Council took note of the Audit Report of the accounts for 2007.

It was noted that despite the positive outcome of the Annual Meetings in 2006 and 2007 this activity is a financial risk. The funds available will be employed for new activities that spring from the strategy implementation plan.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C114: 8:0:0).

Insurance

Further to the report, an offer for insurance that covers financial claims to the EMS due to breach of responsibilities has been received from VOV GmbH, a consortium of seven large insurance companies. The insurance premium amounts to EUR 584.00 plus 19% VAT annually. The Council provided 750 Euro to buy such insurance (8:0:0).

7. Strategy Implementation Plan

The Strategy Implementation Plan in its revised form was presented by the Strategy Implementation Group (**Annex V**).

An additional amendment was proposed, namely to change the Long-term mission statement of the EMS (paper 7a, **Annex V**).

Paragraph 1.1. of the Strategy Implementation Plan now reads:

1.1 Mission Statement

It is recommended that the Long-term mission statement be adopted in the following form:

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) will advance the science, profession and application of meteorology, and of sciences related to it, at the Europe-wide level, for the benefit of the whole population. To this end, the EMS will help its Member Societies and Associate Members, individually and collectively, to benefit all classes of their membership. In particular, the EMS will work to achieve better communication and understanding amongst the members of the European meteorological community under the auspices of Member Societies and Associate Members.

The EMS shall be a non-profit-making organization, operating always under its Constitution approved at a General Assembly by its Member Societies, and will arrange its activities economically, with the public good in mind.

Main discussion:

- The EMS Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings will be retained as standing committees as in the past; this appears to be the appropriate form for their work. The work of the Accreditation Committee will be taken on by a project team that focuses on Professional Practices. For both the Media and the Education Committee, that have a plethora of objectives listed in their Terms of Reference on the one hand, but in practice are focussed on organising the respective sessions at the EMS Annual Meeting, the starting point for realistic projects must be the current practice, not the ambitious mission statements. A team for projects on education will be formed; the activities of media-related projects will come under the remit of the Committee on Meetings.
- The Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) has become more crucial since the PADG has to oversee the running projects and evaluate their contribution to the strategic goals of the EMS. The Group Leader of the PADG will be Claude Pastre.
- The Communications Project Team will be lead by Bob Riddaway.
- The Education Project Team will be lead by Tomás Halenka.
- A person responsible for the Professional Practices Project Team is under consideration.

The Strategy Implementation Plan with the revision of paragraph 1.1, and the assignment of project team leaders was accepted by the Council (Resolution C115: 8:0:0).

8. EMS Annual Meetings

8.1 EMS Committee on Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings reported on the activities, proposals and recommendations of the Committee (**Annex VI**).

Terms of Reference:

The proposed Terms of Reference were accepted with one minor revision (**Annex VI**) (C116: 8:0:0).

Responsibilities for the organisation of EMS Annual Meetings

The proposed assignment of responsibilities for the organisation of the EMS Annual Meetings was approved.

Organisation of ECAM meetings

The framework for the organisation of the ECAM meetings was discussed. The lack of continuity of the Programme and Science Committee (PSC) poses a problem, and the issue of whether EUMETNET should more directly be involved in the organisation was raised. It was stressed that the organising role of the EMS has been successful in bringing together service providers, manufacturers and weather services. However, stronger links between the PSC of EMS & ECAM meetings and EUMETNET, and thus more interest of EUMETNET in the ECAM conference, would be beneficial. Fritz Neuwirth will raise these issues at EUMETNET.

The recommendations concerning the **EMS Annual Meetings 2009, 2010 and 2011/2012** were discussed under agenda item 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4 respectively.

8.2 EMS Annual Meeting 2009

The proposed composition of the Programme and Science Committee (PSC) for the EMS & ECAM 2009 was approved as proposed (8:0:0).

EUMETSAT, due to commitments in the framework of post-EPS, is currently not in a position to delegate a representative to the PSC.

The proposed theme for the meeting is *High resolution meteorology – application and services*.

Special Events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the EMS: a Presidential Lecture in the framework of a plenary session has also been proposed.

In the week prior to the Council Session, it emerged that there will be a competing major event in Toulouse that would make accommodation and traffic very difficult for EMS & ECAM participants. Therefore, after consultation with relevant organisations, the dates were shifted by two weeks to 28 September – 2 October 2009.

8.3 EMS Annual Meeting 2010

The recommendations of the Committee on Meetings on the structural issues of a Climate Change Conference in connection with an EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC were noted.

It was unanimously decided to follow the recommendations of the Committee on Meetings to:

- a) Consider the possibility to collaborate with the EGU on a topical conference on climate change but not to combine this with the EMS Annual Meeting, and
- b) Organise the EMS Annual Meeting in 2010 together with ECAC at ETH in Zurich. The dates are 13 – 17 September 2010.

The Committee on Meetings was asked to discuss the concept, dates, possible venues, organisational framework and a budget for a topical conference on Climate Change with the EGU, and present results and recommendations to the Council.

8.4 EMS Annual Meeting 2011 and 2012

EMS Annual Meeting 2011

Three Societies have proposed to host the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM in 2011: ÖGM, Austria (Innsbruck), DMG, Germany (Berlin) and HMS, Greece (Crete). The Committee on Meetings reported on the different aspects that the Council needed to consider before taking its decision - the DMG has made a good and substantial offer, but information from HMS and ÖGM are not sufficient to give a full assessment to the EMS Council (Report Committee on Meetings **Annex VI**).

The ensuing discussion resulted in the unanimous decision to accept the offer of the DMG to host the EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011 in Berlin. The ÖGM and HMS will be asked to consider re-submission of their respective proposals for future years, with the inclusion of further relevant information.

EMS Annual Meeting 2012

PTG – Meteorological Section, Poland, has proposed to host the 12th EMS Annual Meeting and 9th ECAC in Lodz.

This proposal appears substantial and acceptable, and the Council decided unanimously to accept the offer of PTG.

The president thanked the Committee on Meetings for its excellent work in preparation of the Council Decisions.

8.5 EWOC 2009

The International Conference on Education in Weather, Ocean and Climate (EWOC) is planned for 6 – 10 July 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. The main organizers are David Smith (AMS) and Tomas Halenka (Chair EMS Education Committee/Project Team).

T. Halenka reported on the progress of the organization – a venue has been identified, a website with information and registration facilities installed and an announcement flier printed. He seeks support from the EMS in the form of

- a) key note speakers from the Associate Members of the EMS (EUMETNET-EUMETCAL, EUMETSAT, ...) with travel expenses covered by the respective organizations
- b) funding of the announcement flier (650€)
- c) financial support of the conference in the order of 2000€

In the ensuing discussion it became clear that it is not guaranteed that this conference will go ahead as planned, and that more background information on the organisational and financial framework would be needed.

The Council decided:

- a) To cover the costs for the EWOC announcement flier
- b) To issue a call to the Associate Members of the EMS to provide key note speakers for the EWOC.

The Council also expressed its readiness to provide further financial support for the EWOC 2009, subject to a paper being presented that includes a breakdown of the budget of EWOC 2009. In order not to delay the process, a Council vote-by-correspondence, on the provision of 2000€ for the EWOC2009, will be called once a suitable paper has been provided.

9. Awards

9.1 Awards 2009

The Chair of the Awards Committee reported on the activities of the Committee since the last Council session, including the awards that have been made in 2008 (**Annex VII**).

It is proposed that the eligibility for the Young Scientist Travel Awards and the Young Scientist Award is enlarged to include all countries in WMO Region IV. This was unanimously approved by Council, noting that a revised formulation must not exclude territory covered by one of the EMS Member Societies through the WMO definition. "All countries with an EMS Member Society or included in the WMO RA VI region are considered as European".

The Council approved the list of conferences for which EMS Young Scientist Travel Awards shall be announced in 2009, noting that more details on conferences of WMO, ESA and EUMETSAT should be provided at the appropriate time.

9.2 Media Awards: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for three Media Awards were proposed (**Annex VIII**).

The EMS Council approved the Terms of Reference for the EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award (C117: 8:0:0).

The EMS Council approved the Terms of Reference for the EMS TV Weather Forecast Award (C118: 8:0:0).

The Terms of Reference for the EMS Outreach & Communication Award were considered. However due to the new organizational framework of the EMS as a result of the Strategy Implementation Plan decision, clear responsibilities could not be assigned at this stage. The Terms of Reference will be re-considered at the 20th Session of Council in spring 2009. The announcement of the EMS Outreach & Communication Award 2009 will go ahead as planned.

10. Publications

The Chair of the Publications Committee reported on the activities of the Committee since the last Council session (**Annex IX**).

The Council agrees that EMS Member Societies should be made aware of the RMetS donation of journals to WMO training centres and should be asked to follow this positive example. The EMS thanked the RMetS for having taken this initiative.

The EMS Council decided to cover the page charges (200 pages) for the publication of papers from the EMS & ECAM 2009 conference in the ASR Open Access Journal.

11. Budget 2009

The Treasurer presented the proposal for the budget of the EMS in the financial year 2009 (**Annex X**).

The Council approved the proposed budget (C119: 8:0:0).

12. Membership

12.1 New Member Societies

The Israel Meteorological Society has applied for EMS Membership (**Annex XI**).

This EMS Council welcomed the Israel Meteorological Society as a new EMS Member Society (Resolution C120: 8:0:0).

13. Composition of Council and Council bodies

13.1 Council Composition: proposal for the term 2008 - 2010

After this Council Session the term of five councillors will end, namely H. ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands), R. Heino (GS, Finland), V. Marletto (UNIMET, Italy), V. Petkovic (MDS, Serbia) and M.R. Dias (APMG, Portugal). On behalf of the EMS, the President expressed his gratitude for their work on the EMS Council.

The EMS Council noted the proposal that will be put to the EMS General Assembly on 28 September 2008 (**Annex XII**). All proposed societies and representatives have confirmed their availability. Dr. R. Riddaway will be the representative of the RMetS on the EMS Council.

13.2 Presidency 2008 - 2011

The EMS President proposed Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria) to succeed him as EMS President after the 19th Council Session emphasizing that “Fritz, with his wealth of experience in European Meteorology and his outstanding personality, was an ideal candidate to lead the EMS in the future”.

This proposal received the full support of all Council representatives (Resolution C121: 8:0:0).

Fritz Neuwirth thanked the Council for the confidence and trust and accepted the Presidency noting that the EMS owes much to the outgoing president, David Burridge, who was central in the development of the strategy implementation plan and giving the EMS more profile and weight in the European meteorological community.

The Vice President, Gerhard Steinhorst, gave a moving farewell address to the outgoing president, which is attached as Annex XIV.

13.3 Election Vice Presidents 2008 - 2009

Raino Heino (GS, Finland) has served as Vice-President of the EMS for six years and the President thanked him for his dedication and furtherance of relationships with the ECSN community. He wished him all the best for the future.

The EMS Council re-elected Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as Vice President and Treasurer for the one-year term autumn 2008 – autumn 2009 (C122: 8:0:0).

The EMS Council elected Joanna Wibig (PTG Meteorological Section, Poland) as Vice President for the one-year term autumn 2008 – autumn 2009 (C123: 8:0:0).

The EMS Council elected Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as Vice President for the one-year term autumn 2008 – autumn 2009 (C124: 8:0:0).

14. International Forum of Meteorological Societies

The American Meteorological Society has suggested that an International Forum of Meteorological Societies be established. Walter Dabberdt, AMS President, explained the background and aims of such an International Forum (**Annex XV**).

The idea of establishing such a forum was unanimously welcomed.

An initial planning meeting in conjunction with the 2009 Annual AMS Meeting to discuss the concept of an International Forum and to identify a few of the higher-interest topics leading to establishing a framework for future meetings is in preparation and the Council decided that the EMS should participate in this planning meeting with one of its officers. Also, EMS Member Societies were welcome to send representatives to this planning meeting.

15. Any Other Business

No issues were presented under this agenda item.

16. Next Council Session

The 20th session of the EMS Council will convene in Vienna, Austria, on 12 & 13 March 2009.

Martina Junge
12 November 2008

ANNEX A: Resolutions 19th Session of the EMS Council

C114 Approval Report of Treasurer
C115 Strategy Implementation Plan
C116 Revision Terms of Reference Committee on Meetings
C117 Terms of Reference Broadcast Meteorologist
C118 Terms of Reference TV Weather Forecast Award
C119 Approval of Budget 2009
C120 Approval of Membership Israel Meteorological Society
C121 Election EMS President 2008 – 2011
C122 Election of EMS Vice President and Treasurer
C123 Election of EMS Vice President
C124 Election of EMS Vice President

Resolution C114

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C115

This EMS Council approved the Strategy Implementation Plan.
The Group Leader of the Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) will be Claude Pastre. The Communications Project Team will be lead by Bob Riddaway. The Education Project Team will be lead by Tomáš Halenka.

Resolution C116

This EMS Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee on Meetings.

Resolution C117

This EMS Council approved the Terms of Reference of the EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award.

Resolution C118

This EMS Council approved the Terms of Reference of the EMS TV Weather Forecast Award.

Resolution C119

This EMS Council approved the Budget 2009 (as attached).

Resolution C120

This EMS Council welcomed the Israel Meteorological Society as new EMS Member Society.

Resolution C121

This EMS Council elected Fritz Neuwirt (ÖGM, Austria) as EMS President for the term 2008 – 2011.

Resolution C122

This EMS Council re-elected Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as EMS Vice-President and Treasurer for the term 2008 – 2009.

Resolution C123

This EMS Council elected Joanna Wibig (PTG Meteorological Section, Poland) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2008 – 2009.

Resolution C124

This EMS Council elected Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2008 – 2009.