

23rd EMS Council Session
12 September 2010, Zürich, Switzerland

Minutes of 5 November 2010
approved by the 24th Council Session

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Fritz Neuwirth Chair (OeGM Austria, EMS President)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Zoltán Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)

Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland, EMS Vice President)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, EMS Vice President; also representing ECMWF)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG Germany, EMS Vice President and Treasurer)

Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (EMS Media Team)

Christophe Billard (EMS Project Team Professional Practices)

Tomas Halenka (EMS Project Team Education)

Saskia Willemse (MeteoSwiss; observer for the NMHS Associate Members)

Jeremy Usher (Weatherbug, private service provider; observer)

9 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President opened the 23rd Session of the EMS Council and welcomed all participants. He thanked ETH and the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science for providing the wonderful facilities. Hans Richner also welcomed the participants and gave background information about the IACETH premises.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 22nd Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 22nd session of the EMS Council were accepted unanimously (Annex XIV).

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session and also the activities of the Bureau (Annex II).

The main activity constitutes communication with the Executive Secretary, the chair of the PADG and the Treasurer on the day-to-day business of the EMS. He emphasized his activities with respect to the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS), where he is steering the committee that is responsible for the development of the new website. He also drew attention to the publication of the EMS Annual Report 2009; this was distributed to all Member Societies in August and is presented to the EMS General Assembly by the EMS Council. It is accessible from the website.

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session, detailed in Annex III. The work was strongly focussed on the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2010 (support for the PSC2010, communication with convenors on the session organisation, and communication with the Local Organising Committee and with Copernicus GmbH) and the implementation of Council decisions from the 22nd Session. Also support was provided for EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

The ems-message No.8 and 9 have been published.

For the publication of conference papers from the EMS/ECAM 2009 in the open access journal *Advances in Science and Research (ASR)*, www.advancesinscience.net/volumes.htm, 20 papers have now been published. Publication of conference papers from the EMS/ECAC 2010 has been prepared, and is announced on the conference website and in the programme book. Conference participants will receive an e-mail directly following the end of the conference. The publication of conference papers from the EMS/ECAC 2010 will be funded by the Swiss Academy of Science (SCNAT).

The EMS President informed the Council that he receives reports from the Executive Secretary on a regular basis.

6. Report of the Treasurer

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

Financial Accounts 2009

The financial accounts 2009 were presented to the Council at its session in March 2010; the financial situation of the EMS is healthy.

The revenue and expenses statement has been compiled by the tax advisor, B. Hoffmann, Berlin. The Audit of the accounts had been carried out by the Office of C. Kucklick in Berlin, and no shortcomings were noted. The audit report and attestation are provided to the General Assembly with the Report of the Treasurer.

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2010

The forecast of the financial accounts for 2010 show that income and expenditure will stay well within limits set out by the Budget; a negative balance of 9 000 Euro is expected.

The contributions to the EMS income were analysed, and it was noted that the Membership fees of Associate Members constitute a considerable part of the EMS funding. It was agreed that visibility of Associate Members should be improved via the EMS Internet site.

Despite the current healthy state of the EMS accounts, the situation must be monitored, as the income from the Annual Meetings is subject to considerable variability.

The funds available will be employed for new projects of the project teams, among these a workshop of the Media Team for climatologists.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C141: 9:0:0).

7. Reports Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) and Project Teams

The chair of the PADG provided an update on the actions from the meeting of the PADG and associated Council decisions in March 2010 (Annex V). It was noted that the majority of actions had been completed.

Ongoing Actions

Among those actions that are ongoing is the preparation for a new Media Workshop. At present cooperative partners are being sought, though there appears to be a shortage of funds for this type of projects. By the end of 2010 the concept and availability of partners for a Media Workshop should have become clearer.

Promotion of the EMS amongst manufacturers in the meteorological field

Concern has been expressed about the benefits Associate Members get from their EMS membership.

The Committee on Meetings reported on the successful reintroduction of sessions relevant to manufacturers. These have attracted large numbers of contributions, and manufacturers have been content with this development. It was also noted that the possibility for exhibitors to present their work during sessions should be enlarged; proposals for additional session topics are always welcome by the Programme and Science Committee (energy, pollution, climate change, sessions broaching demands of scientists to manufacturers). The job site may also become of interest. Further actions will be discussed with the Committee on Meetings.

Editorial Board

Following the decision of the 23rd Council Session, Terms of Reference for an Editorial Board have been developed (Annex II of the Report of the PADG, Annex V).

The Terms of Reference of the Editorial Board and the following membership were approved by the Council: Claude Pastre, Bob Riddaway, Fritz Neuwirth, Executive Secretary. The chair of the Editorial Board is Bob Riddaway (Resolution C141: 9:0:0).

Matthias Mohr was asked to become a member of the Editorial Board; he will consider this offer.

The President thanked all chairs of the project teams and committees for their activities and development of plans for future actions.

8. EMS Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee and summarized issues discussed at the recent CoM meeting. (Annex VI).

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2010

The preparation of the EMS&ECAC went well with very good local support. The numbers of abstracts submitted and number of pre-registrations reached the upper level of assumptions, thus a good turnout at the meeting is expected.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011

Programme and Science Committee

The CoM in collaboration with the EMS Bureau had developed a proposal for the Programme and Science Committee (PSC) that will be responsible for the programme of the EMS&ECAM 2011 (Annex VI, Item 2). Invitations to the first meeting of the PSC on 13 September 2010 had been sent, with the consent of the EMS President. The EMS Council approved the membership of the PSC2011.

Theme

As topical theme “Probabilistic weather forecasting on all time scales using ensembles” was proposed by the host meteorological service, DWD. The issue was raised whether the theme appears too narrow, but it was felt that for the NWP community the theme is entirely topical and comprehensive. The general topic was approved by the Council, with the fine-tuning of the title left to the PSC for a final decision.

Budget

The Budget of the EMS&ECAM 2011 was presented (Annex VI). The chair of the CoM stressed that large uncertainties exist, in particular with respect to the number of participants. Thus two versions of the budget are outlined, differing in the participant number. In contrast to the 2010 event for which facilities of the ETH are provided in kind, costs for the conference centre in Berlin will accrue. Contributions by DWD are well received.

The budget is based on the assumption that all participants pay registration fees, including convenors. Additionally the CoM's view was presented that no honoraries are paid for moderators of discussions or invited speakers.

The budget for the EMS&ECAM 2011 was approved by the Council. The Council approved the view of the CoM regarding the payment of honoraries.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2013

A proposal of the RMetS to host the EMS&ECAM 2013 in Reading was received (Annex VI, item 3), with the view of the CoM being very positive. An issue that needs to be discussed with the RMetS is the proposed date (end June/early July) that is somewhat far from the traditional September-date of the EMS meetings. This should not, however, jeopardize the joint conference. The Council welcomed the holding the EMS&ECAM 2013 in Reading, UK, together with the RMetS, but stressed that the September date should be kept if possible.

Support for national and topical meetings co-organized by EMS Members

Member Societies have been invited to a side meeting in Zürich on 12 September 2010 to discuss possible support actions. It should be noted that whatever action is taken or level of support is given, it will in most cases involve the provision of financial funds of the EMS.

Membership of the Committee on Meetings

The Council approved the membership of Jean Pailleux (SMF, France) and Olivija Morell (Meteo Mak, FYROM) in the Committee on Meetings.

The Council thanked Pierre Bauer and Zoltan Dunkel for their committed work on the committee in the past.

The President thanked the chair of the Committee on Meetings, Horst Böttger, for his effective work and concluded that the committee work is in good hands.

Future locations for EMS Annual Meetings

Two possible venues for future EMS Annual Meetings, Crete/University of Athens and Prague, were mentioned. The respective national Member Societies were asked to put in a formal proposal as outlined in the questionnaire on the website of the Committee on Meetings.

9. Awards

9. 1 Report of the Awards Committee

On behalf of the Chair of the Awards Committee the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Committee since the last Council session (Annex VII).

A proposal for the Awards budget 2011, including the continuation of all Media Awards, was presented (see also agenda item 10).

9. 2 European Photo Competition: Europhotometeo

A report on the Europhotometeo '09 by the Organising Committee was provided to Council (AnnexVIII) and presented by Fernando Aguado.

The Council highly appreciated this competition and expressed its thanks to the organising committee and AME as the initiator of the contest and their tremendous work in bringing to fruition a very successful competition.

The contest will be repeated with a biennial cycle. AME volunteered to organise the competition again in 2011; details on the organisation will be outlined in a paper to the Council at its spring session in 2011.

10. Budget

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the EMS Budget 2011 (Annex IX). The Council approved the budget as proposed (C143: 9:0:0).

11. Membership

The application of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW), Warszawa, Poland, for Associate Membership had been received (Annex X). The Council welcomed this application and expressed its delight in extending the network of the meteorological community in Europe. The application was unanimously welcome (C144: 9:0:0)

The Council was also informed that the Italian Member Society SIMA will be dissolved, and the Associate Member Degreane Horizon has cancelled its Membership.

12. Composition of Council and Council bodies

12. 1 Council composition: proposal for the term 2010 - 2012

A proposal by the EMS Council to the General Assembly on the election of 5 representatives on the EMS Council was presented and approved (Annex XI).

12. 2 Election EMS Vice President and EMS Treasurer

This EMS Council elects Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2010 – 2013. (C145: 9:0:0)

This EMS Council elects Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as EMS Treasurer for the term 2010 – 2013. (C146: 9:0:0)

The EMS President expressed his thanks on behalf of the entire Council to Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland) who had served as EMS Vice President for one year, and was very committed in the work and development of EMS, in particular through his membership of the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

13. Code of Ethics

Following the proposal for a code of ethics by the Media Team at the 22nd Council Session, the Project Team on Professional Practices initiated an inquiry with EMS Members on the existence of codes of ethics or related guidelines. Three responses were received so far, and these have been analysed as to similarities and general issues; the report is attached (Annex XII).

The code of ethics, and discussions that followed, will be presented at the Media Session of the EMS Meeting in the following week.

It was agreed that further input from Members should be sought.

The aim is to:

- Derive common features of existing codes and guidelines (that remain subject to a permanent critical approach).
- Derive from these common features an “EMS code” that Members could adopt or adapt as their code
- Make the results available on the internet.

A synthesis paper will be presented for the next council session.

14. Involvement of the EMS in the IPCC process

Following discussion at the 22nd Council session a paper was presented on the background of the IPCC and the EMS, proposing that the EMS should apply for observer status at the IPCC (Annex XIII).

Issues discussed under this item were:

- Does the EMS produce statements on relevant issues that can be presented at the IPCC sessions? Member Societies may not accept any statements made by the EMS on their behalf.
- Is this a role for the EMS as observers are consumers of the IPCC output?
- The profile of the EMS may be risen, but would funds be available to provide for travel?

In summary there was a hesitation to accept the proposal, but developments will be monitored and re-assessed. Matthias Mohr expressed his opinion in favour of the application.

15. Revision of the constitution

Following discussion at the 22nd Council session and comments from EMS Member Societies a revised version of the EMS constitution was submitted to the General Assembly for a final decision (Annex XIV).

16. AOB

No items were discussed.

17. Next Council Session

The date and location of the 24th session of the EMS Council are not yet finalised.

Martina Junge
5 November 2010

ANNEX A: Resolutions 23rdSession of the EMS Council

Resolutions:

C141 Approval Report of Treasurer

C142 Approval of Terms of Reference Editorial Board; membership and chair of the editorial board

C143 Approval of Budget 2011

C144 Approval of Associate Membership of IMGW

C145 Election of EMS Vice President

C146 Election of EMS Treasurer

Resolution C141

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C142

The EMS Council approves Terms of Reference of the Editorial Board (as attached)

The EMS Council approves the membership of the Editorial Board:

Bob Riddaway (Chair)

Claude Pastre

Fritz Neuwirth

Martina Junge, ex-officio as Executive Secretary.

Resolution C143

This EMS Council approves the Budget 2011 (as attached).

Resolution C144

This EMS Council welcomes the IMGW, Poland, as a new EMS Member Associate Member.

Resolution C145

This EMS Council re-elects Robert Riddaway (RMetS, UK) as EMS Vice-President for the term 2010 – 2013.

Resolution C146

This EMS Council re-elects Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) as EMS Treasurer for the term 2010 – 2013.