

24th EMS Council Session

17-18 March 2011, Bratislava, Slovakia

Minutes approved by the 25th Council Session

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Fritz Neuwirth Chair (OeGM Austria, EMS President)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Dagmar Kotlarikova (SMS, Slovakia)

Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

Olivija Morell (MeteoMak, FYR Macedonia)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, EMS Vice President)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany, EMS Treasurer)

Christophe Billard (EMS Project Team Professional Practices)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tomas Halenka (EMS Project Team Education)

Dominique Marbouty (ECMWF, permanent observer)

Vladimir Pastircak (SMS, Slovakia; host)

Michael Staudinger (ZAMG, observer for the NMHSs)

8 Council members were present - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of the session

The EMS President opened the 24th Session of the EMS Council and welcomed all participants. He thanked the Slovak Meteorological Society and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute for the invitation to host this meeting in Bratislava. Vladmir Pastircak, president of SMS, expressed his pleasure in welcoming participants of this meeting.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 23rd Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 23rd 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 Council took note of the decision of EUMETNET to have no Memorandum of understanding between the two organisations at this stage. EUMETNET will continue to be invited to be represented on the Programme and Science Committee for the Annual Meetings.

The Council warmly welcomed the agreement of Dominique Marbouty to be a candidate for the elections of the EMS President for the term 2011 – 2014.

The Council agreed that the European meteorological societies should continue to be represented by the President of the EMS on the Steering Committee of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS). A proposal to that effect will be made at the IFMS-Global Meeting 2 in China in November 2011.

The EMS Council tasked the EMS President to write a letter to the head of the Institut für Meteorologie, FU Berlin, conveying the gratitude of the Council for providing facilities at the department for the EMS Office.

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (Annex III).

Website development

The proposed concept for the re-development of the EMS website, with a new entry site and more information on activities of the EMS Member Societies and Associate Members, was approved.

The Council agreed to a content management system and photo gallery being implemented on the EMS Internet site (see also agenda item 6). In addition the provision of tools that would allow direct access for all Members to update information on their organizations' activities will be investigated.

The Council agreed to the provision of an EMS-page on facebook.

Employment of an assistant for the EMS Office

The Council agreed to the proposal to employ additional staff in order to support the EMS Executive Secretary in the daily administration of the EMS activities (see also agenda item 6).

6. Report of the Treasurer

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

Financial Accounts 2010

The financial situation of the EMS is healthy. The balance as at 31 December 2010 has increased by 22,467.61€ compared to 31 December 2009.

Consideration will be given to whether some of the funds should be put into a savings account to take advantage of interests paid.

Forecast of the financial Accounts 2011

EMS Membership Fees are increased annually based on the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices published by EUROSTAT: the increase from December 2009 to December 2010 in the EU area was 2.6%; Membership Fees in 2011 will increase from 1.08 € to 1.10 € per individual member of a Member Society.

In addition to the expenditure foreseen in the Budget 2011, as agreed by the Council at its 23rd Session, the following items were unanimously approved.

- Increased funding for the organisation of the Media workshop for climatologists.
- Organisation of a forecasters' workshop and a workshop on presentations at the EMS Annual Meetings (see agenda item 8).
- Implementation of a content management system and a photo gallery on the EMS website (see agenda item 5).
- Employment of a part-time assistant to the Executive Secretary (see agenda item 5).

The revised expenditure plan is attached in Annex B.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C147: 9:0:0).

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

The report of the chair of the PADG (Annex V) raised issues connected with the role of the PADG and terms of reference that would need to specify the membership and rules for appointment. The ensuing discussion concluded that the original mission of the PADG had been fulfilled, and the PADG should subsequently be disbanded. Strategic issues are dealt with by the Bureau on a continuous basis, and ad-hoc-working groups should be established when the need arises.

The Council unanimously agreed to disband the PADG. The Council is grateful for the important work done by committed members of the PADG in the implementation of the new structure that was part of the Strategy Implementation Plan 2008. The EMS President is tasked to write to the members of the PADG and thank them for their commitment and contributions.

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.

Monitoring of actions will also be necessary in future and such a document should become a standard document at session of the Council, provided by the Executive Secretary.

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 financial settlement of the conference has been included in the Treasurer's report; the large number of participants as well as low costs for the venue resulted in a surplus. In the evaluation of the statistics and feedback from participants it was noted that around 8% of participants are forecasters, thus the conference appears to appeal to that community already. More efforts in that direction are under way for the 2011 meeting. A proposal to get feedback from participants online as well as with feedback cards during the meeting will be considered by the Committee on Meetings.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011

A revised budget of the meeting has been provided based on two estimates of participant numbers. DWD is providing strong financial support and this is highly appreciated.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2012

A budget for the meeting has been provided, again based on two different estimates of participant numbers.

The CoM at its meeting in May will develop a proposal for the membership of the Programme and Science Committee, in collaboration with ECSN and the Polish hosts.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2013

The Council agreed that use of the facilities at University of Reading is the preferred option for the venue of the 2013 conference, and efforts should be concentrated on solving the outstanding issues concerning those facilities before considering an alternative venue.

Future locations for EMS Annual Meetings

Currently there is no firm proposal for the EMS Annual Meeting 2014 and the Committee on Meetings is tasked to develop a proposal for the next Council meeting.

Support for Member Societies

It was concluded that the Committee had taken important steps to ensure that the societies are now all informed on the options for support; more requests for support are expected in the near future.

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

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).

The Council selected Jean-François Geleyn as recipient of the EMS Silver Medal 2011 (Resolution C148). Jean-François Geleyn will be invited to the EMS Annual Meeting in Berlin and to give a “Silver Medal Lecture”.

Dario Giaiotti will step down as chair of the Awards Committee in autumn; he will also resign as a committee member. Hans Richner will resign as a committee member at the same time.

Johannes Schmetz, EUMETSAT, has agreed to be a candidate for the Chair of the Awards Committee. The Council greatly appreciated this offer. The election will take place at the 25th Session of Council.

Fulvio Stel (UMFVG, Italy) was appointed as a affiliated member of the Awards Committee with immediate effect; it is expected that he will then be elected as member of the committee at the 25th Session of Council.

9. 2 Media Awards

The Council agreed to revise the Terms of Reference for the EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award:

"A selection committee, consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the EMS Media Committee, the Chair of the Awards Committee and an expert, appointed by the EMS Council on a yearly basis, will decide on who will be the Laureate."

is replaced by:

"A selection committee, consisting of the Chair of the EMS Media Team, the Chair of the Awards Committee and two experts, appointed by the EMS Council on a yearly basis, will decide on who will be the Laureate."

The Council agreed to revise the Terms of Reference for the EMS TV Weather Forecast Award:

"A selection committee, consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the EMS Media Committee, the winner of the Award in the preceding year and a representative of (CBN-E) will decide on who will be the Laureate."

is replaced by:

"A selection committee, consisting of the Chair of the EMS Media Team, the winner of the Award in the preceding year, and two experts will decide on who will be the Laureate."

The following membership of the selection committees for the EMS Media Awards has been approved:

EMS Outreach and Communication Award:

- Tanja Cegnar (chair) – *Media Team*
- Dario Giaiotti – Awards Committee
- Tomas Halenka – Education Project Team
- Rasmus Benestad – expert proposed
- Rob van Dorland – expert proposed
- Marlowe Hood – science journalist; expert proposed

EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award:

- Tanja Cegnar (chair Media Team)
- Dario Giaiotti (chair Awards Committee)
- Inge Niedek (expert)
- Claire Martin (expert)

EMS TV Weather Forecast Award

- Tanja Cegnar (chair)
- Florin Busuioc (Laureate 2010)
- Claire Martin (expert)
- Alois Holzer (expert)

9. 3 European Photo Competition: Europhotometeo

Following the decision of the EMS Council at its 23rd session, the AME has presented a proposal on the organisation of a second photo competition, Europhotometeo'12, that invites submission of photos related to meteorology taken in 2010 or 2011 (Annex VIII).

The proposal includes an increase in the number of prizes from 3 to 5, and a slight increase of the prize money.

If a photo gallery with supporting tools will be available on the EMS site by the time of the competition the terms and conditions of the competition will be revised accordingly. The Council unanimously agreed on this proposal.

In addition, the options for an open public voting system will be investigated. Public voting will not be in competition to the EMS prize(s), but is intended to draw attention to the EMS website. Technical details to inhibit multiple voting will be investigated. Public voting must not increase the workload of the organizers of Europhotometeo. This proposal was accepted by the Council (6:0:2).

The Council is highly appreciative of this competition and expressed its thanks to the organising committee and AME as the initiator of the contest.

10. Membership

No applications for Membership has been received.

In Bulgaria a section of meteorologists was formed as part of the Union of Physicists of Sofia; approval at the national level is expected in April. It is expected that the section will then apply for Membership of the EMS.

11. Revision Rules of Procedure

The proposal to revise the rules of procedure for the EMS Council, following the revision of the constitution of the EMS at the 12th EMS General Assembly (Annex IX), was accepted unanimously.

The proposal to revise the rules of procedure for the EMS General Assembly (Annex X) was unanimously agreed to be put to the 13th EMS General Assembly on 11 September 2011.

12. Composition of Council and Council bodies

12. 1 Council composition: proposal for the term 2011 - 2013

Rotating representatives

Three Member Societies that have never been represented on the EMS Council have been approached as to their potential representation for the term 2011 – 2013 in preparation of the Council session (Annex XI). The Belgium society SRBA accepted the invitation, the Irish and the Icelandic societies are interested.

Criteria for proposals have been discussed (e.g. membership number, attendance at General Assembly and geographical representation); should the Irish or Icelandic societies decline representation, the following societies will be approached (in this order): Denmark, Croatia, Israel.

Permanent representatives

Gerhard Steinhorst will resign as representative of the DMG, Germany, with effect from the 25th EMS Council on 11 September 2011. The DMG will then nominate Prof. Dr. K.H. Schlünzen (University of Hamburg) as representative on the EMS Council.

12. 2 EMS Officers

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany) will resign as EMS Treasurer with effect from the 25th EMS Council on 11 September 2011.

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France) agreed to be candidate for the office of the EMS Treasurer for the term 2011–2014. The Council greatly welcomed the offer from Jean-Pierre Chalon.

13. Code of Ethics

Following discussions to develop a code of ethics at the EMS General Assembly and in the Media Session of the EMS Meeting, a proposal for a code of practice on communication was developed (Annex XII).

Following discussions on the title and the appropriateness of specific formulations (such as “open source”, “uncertainty”) the Council agreed that a revised version will be presented for approval to the 13th EMS General Assembly.

14. AOB

A Member of the AME, Spain, is interested to join the project team on professional practices.

Matthias Mohr proposes to change the constitution and have one additional Council representative elected from the group of Associate Members on a rotational basis. The Council discussed the practicalities and caveats of this approach and agreed that more involvement of Associates would be welcome. A formal Council representation as proposed appears not advisable at this stage, on the background that four groups of Associate Members are invited to be represented at each council session by an observer. It is planned that the EMS will discuss with the representative associations of manufacturers and private service providers the options of more involvement in the EMS activities.

15. Next Council Session

The 25th session of the EMS Council will convene on 11 September 2011, in Berlin, Germany.

Martina Junge
13 April 2011

ANNEX A: Resolutions 24th Session of the EMS Council

Resolutions:

C147 Approval Report of Treasurer

C148 Silver Medal Laureate

Resolution C147

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C148

The EMS Silver Medal 2011 is awarded to Jean-François Geleyn.

Annex B: Revised Expenditure Plan 2011

All financial figures are given in Euro.

Figures in the forecast that differ from the budget are marked in blue.

Carried forward from 2010	96 540.83	96 540.83
	Budget as agreed by Council C23	Revision C24
INCOME 2011		
Income from Members	23 500	23 500
Income from Associate Members	38 400	38 400
Annual Meeting	25 000	25 000
Other income		
Total	86 900	86 900

EXPENDITURE 2011		
Salaries (Executive Sec. and Assistant)	63 400	69 600
Policy Advice Development Group, Committees, Project Teams	4 500	4 500
Awards	14 000	14 000
Workshops (media, forecasters, presentation)	2 000	6 000
Publications & Annual Report	2 000	8 000
Honoraries, Fees	4 000	4 000
Travelling	7 000	7 000
Support Council participation	1 000	1 000
Office costs	2 000	2 000
Banking charges	300	300
Total	100 200	116 400
INCOME – EXPENDITURE 2011	-13 300	-29 500
Account Balance expected for 31 Dec 2011	83 240.83	67 040.83