

26th EMS Council Session
15/16 March 2012, Brussels, Belgium

Minutes of 28 March 2012

Participants: (voting councillors underlined)

Dominique Marbouty (EMS President)

Constanta Boroneant (SMR, Romania)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Ksenija Cindric (HMD, Croatia)

Eigil Kaas (DaMS, Denmark)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, EMS Vice President)

Guy Schayes (SRBA, Belgium)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany) - from 16 March, 9:00 , agenda item 9.

Jérôme Béquignon (ESA, permanent observer)

Rafiq Hamdi (RMI, observer for the NMHSs)

Horst Böttger (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair EMS Media Team)

Tomas Halenka (EMS Project Team Education)

Marc Vandiepenbeeck (RMI)

7 Council members were present, 8 on 16 March (from agenda item 9) - the quorum is 7.

Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary

1. Opening of the 26th Session

The EMS President opened the 26th Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all the participants. The acting director general of RMI, Daniell Gellens, also welcomed all participants at the RMI. He emphasized that RMI as an Associate Member of the EMS is proud to host this Session of the EMS Council. He outlined the research and operational activities of RMI, with emphasis on the importance and usefulness of co-operation within the meteorological community on a national level and internationally.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The proposed agenda was revised to include the additional items “Monitoring of Projects” and “Budget 2013”; no additional issues were declared for the agenda item AOB. The agreed agenda is provided in Annex I.

3. Implementation of decisions taken at the 25th Session of the EMS Council

The minutes of the 25th Session of the EMS Council had been distributed to all participants of this meeting. Revisions that were put forward to the Executive Secretary within four weeks after distribution have been implemented. The minutes were distributed to EMS Members. The minutes are held adopted (Rules of procedure 57) and are available from www.emetsoc.org/governance-and-structure/council/council-meetings. The implementation of actions recorded in the minutes has been detailed in paper C26_03, provided in Annex II.

The reason for the introduction of abstract processing fees was recapitulated (C25:M7). It was clarified that for the 2012 meeting no exemptions are made for particular parts of the programme, but the decision would be reviewed in light of the experience and the impact on the attractiveness of sessions.

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session as well as on initiatives of the EMS Bureau (Annex III).

He drew the attention of Council to the invitation having been made jointly by the RMetS and the EMS to host the IFMS 3rd Global Meeting (GM3) alongside the EMS Annual Meeting in September 2013 in Reading in the UK. A short discussion on the objectives of the IFMS concluded that the most relevant issue is the exchange of information on activities and experience on a global level.

A quarterly meeting of the EMS Bureau has been introduced in order to discuss pending issues between Council sessions, primarily by means of an audio-conference.

A draft of the Annual Report 2011 of the Council has been prepared and is currently revised by the Bureau. The draft will be distributed to Council members following the Council session.

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (Annex IV). The section on monitoring the activities and projects of EMS, which is now provided with the report of the secretariat, was discussed under agenda item 10.

6. Report of the Treasurer

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

Financial Accounts 2011

The financial accounts 2011 show a balance of 89 729.92€ which means a decrease of funds by 6 810.91€ from December 2010 to December 2011. A compilation of payments made by Member Societies and Associate Members, as well as the settlement from the EMS Annual Meeting were provided for reference. A reminder that the risk in the organisation of the Annual Meeting is estimated at 100 000€ was given and that a reserve for such an event should be achieved.

Forecast of the Financial Accounts 2012

The forecast for the accounts at the end of 2012 was noted by the Council.

Following inflation in the European area, Membership fees are increased from 1.10€ to 1.14€ per individual member of a Member society. The YSTA budget had been increased by a Bureau decision based on the delegated powers provided by Council at its previous meeting.

It was agreed to merge the budget items concerning travel and support for Council participation. It was emphasized that the standard rule is that Members represented on the EMS Council cover the travel of their representative to the Council sessions and only in exceptional cases will the EMS support their participation through partial funding of the travel costs.

Opening of a daily account

The bank chosen for the daily account is Triodos:

<http://www.triodos.de/de/geschaeftskunden/geldanlage/tagesgeld/details/>

Rules on financial management

Council took note of the changes of the rules on financial management.

Approval of the report

The Report of the Treasurer was approved by the Council (Resolution C157: 7:0:0).

7. EMS Meetings

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee. He gave a short evaluation of the recent Annual Meeting 2011 and informed Council about plans and preparations for the Annual Meetings in 2013 and 2014 (Annex VI). Subsequently the Executive Secretary provided update information on the latter.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2011

It was noted that the EMS & ECAM 2011 was an exceptionally successful meeting. The pilot project of the workshop for forecasters was accepted in the community; it should be surveyed whether workshops attract additional participants to the conference.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2012

It was noted that the preparations of the EMS & ECAC 2012 are in hands. The concept of the proposed SAF workshop was welcome and the involvement of EUMETSAT and Eumetcal is highly appreciated.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2013

Updated information on the communication with the facility management of University of Reading, poster and exhibition companies was provided. A contract on the rent of the entire Palmer building was received, and a budget based on this contract provided to the Council (Annex VI-b). The Council decided that the entire building should be rented for the purpose of the EMS & ECAM 2013.

EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2014

The Executive Secretary provided a report on the site inspection at Prague conference facilities and recommended that the Clarion Hotel be considered as the venue rather than the Prague Conference Centre. Both facilities have costs in the same order of magnitude. The available dates for the Clarion Hotel are the last week of August 2014 and the second week of October: 6-10 October 2014.

It was noted that the conference would be quite expensive; the “break-even” point is estimated to be with 550 participants which lies below the number of participants attending the last two Annual Meetings. The Council took the view that the expected income from Annual Meetings should be seen as an average of consecutive years. Thus the selection of the 2015 venue will have to be seen in that context.

The Council decided to hold the EMS Annual Meeting 2014 in Prague. However it is concerned about the costs and tasked the CoM and the Executive Secretary with trying to negotiate a considerable reduction in costs for the Clarion Hotel which is considered to be the best location. The preferred choice amongst the weeks available is the 6-10 October 2014.

Venue EMS Annual Meeting 2015

The Council asked the CoM to investigate the options for a venue in 2015. Because of the expensive venue for 2014 Annual Meeting a financially sound proposals is required for 2015.

The President thanked the Chair of the CoM, Horst Böttger, for his excellent work and concluded that the activities of the committee are in good hands.

8. Awards

On behalf of the Chair of the Awards Committee the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the committee since the last Council session which included revision of procedures for the nomination and evaluation of candidates for the EMS Silver Medal, announcement and evaluation of applications for YSTAs, and evaluation and recommendation to the Council for the recipient of the EMS Silver Medal 2012.

EMS Silver Medal

The EMS Council selected Timothy Palmer as the recipient for the EMS Silver Medal 2012. Citation:

'The EMS Silver Medal 2012 is awarded to Professor Timothy Palmer for his pioneering work on predictability of weather and climate and for his outstanding skills and commitment in communicating the underlying concepts to non-specialists and the general public in Europe and beyond.' (C158: 7:0:0)

The Awards Committee is preparing a proposal for the revision of the terms of reference for the autumn Council session, and this is supported by the Council.

The Council thanked the Awards Committee for their work, in particular for that related to the call for nominations for the Silver Medal, the evaluation and the recommendations made to Council.

Membership of selection committees for the EMS Media Awards in 2012

A proposal was presented by the Media Team (Annex VII). This was supported by Council. As the confirmation from two experts invited to the committee for the Outreach and Communciation award was still pending, Claire Martin, chair of IABM and member of the media team, was named as possible member should one of these decline.

Europhotometeo

It was considered whether the rights to use photos can be extended beyond the EMS Member Societies to Associate Members and also WMO. In principle the usage of photos by all Associate Members was welcome; however, sensitivity is required with regard to the use for commercial purposes. This is further considered and an appropriate proposal to be made to the next Council by the Editorial Board.

9. Workshop on Communication Skills

A report was provided on the organisation, success and feedback from the workshop that was held in 2011 in Berlin (Annex VIII).

The participants' feedback suggests that their expectations of the workshop were met. The number of participation (12) was judged to be appropriate for the concept of individual training. The limitation to climatologists was discussed; the focus might be varied from year to year depending on whether this is a side event of an ECAM or ECAC conference.

The language issue was discussed. Considering that the workshop is a European pilot project and the teaching and training language necessarily English, the concept may be used by Member Societies to provide training specifically in their regional language.

There is a high interest to continue such a type of workshop, and the chair of the Media Team is currently in communication with the local host of the EMS & ECAC in Lodz, IMGW, and WMO on the joint preparation of various media events connected with the conference.

The budget of the workshop will need to incorporate funds for technical equipment, the rooms and support for the travel of coaches. A detailed budget will be provided by the chair of the Media Team. The Bureau is entitled to take a decision on the provision of funds and will subsequently inform the Council.

The Council thanked the chair of the Media Team for the initiative and organisation of a successful workshop.

10. Monitoring of Projects

The monitoring of projects was provided with the report of the secretariat (Annex IV).

Editorial Board

Emily Gleeson, Ireland, was approved as new member of the Editorial Board. The membership is now: Bob Riddaway (chair), Fritz Neuwirth, Claude Pastre, Emily Gleeson and Martina Junge.

Professional Practices Team

H. Schlünzen and C. Billard will lead the investigation whether a COST action or other programmes could be instruments to provide the support that is needed to make the proposed project successful. T. Cegnar and T. Halenka will contribute with their specific expertise. The Council thanked C. Billard and T. Cegnar for the successful implementation of the Code of Practice.

Education Team

A proposal for a specific education project will be provided by T. Halenka for the 27th Council.

Media Team

The Media Team activities are concentrated in spring and summer. The media session in Berlin was organised, material for the DVD was collected and the process of preparation of the DVD started. Some activities related to the media session in Lodz have already been initiated.

The possibility of organising a second communication training workshop for climatologists is being investigated (see agenda item 9); some financial support has been promised by the Norwegian meteorological society. Talks with IMGW on collaboration some potential synergies with the WMO CCI activities are currently ongoing.

Some of the media team members attended the IWF in Paris in October 2011; promotion for the EMS media session was made among colleagues. Also a contact with the local colleagues was established and their involvement in the media session discussed.

The chair attended the meeting '*Meteorology in the public eye*' in Zagreb on 6/7 March 2012, and delivered a presentation on EMS media and communication team achievements and activities. Most of the media team members will meet in Geneva in March at the occasion of the World meteorological day.

Rasmus Benestad established a network of climatologists on climate change issues.

The media team was restructured to assign specific tasks to each member:

- Tanja Cegnar – chair
- Rasmus Benestad – networking with climate community
- Alois Holzer – national aspects of communication
- Jay Trobec – liason with AMS
- Claire Martin – liason with IABM
- Gerald Fleming – liason with WMO

11. Membership

It was noted that WKU had not paid Associate Membership Fees for two successive years and did not respond to repeated requests for communication and to meet the invoices, thus its Associate Membership in the EMS ceased.

Benefits: The main advantages of EMS and EMS Membership compiled have been discussed; it was noted that the list presented activities and features rather than specific benefits; the latter would be more useful in the promotion of the EMS. It was agreed that B. Riddaway and D. Marbouty will provide a document for the next Council Session which explicitly specifies the benefits.

12. Permanent Membership Fees

A proposal for the long-term future of Membership Fee payments of Permanent Members has been put forward by the Royal Meteorological Society (Annex IX):

It is proposed that the additional payments of Permanent Members on the EMS Council (DMG, RMetS, SMF), henceforth called *Permanent Membership Fees*, is set to 2500€ from 2013 and indexed in the same way as normal Membership Fees. This proposal is acceptable to the SMF and the RMetS, but due to ongoing internal discussions the DMG representative could not give a definitive statement at the time of the Council Session. It was agreed that a decision about this matter would be made at the next Council meeting.

It was noted that Permanent Membership Fees are not mentioned in the constitution of the EMS. This will be rectified at the next opportunity.

13. 2013 Budget

Elements of a budget proposal for 2013 have been presented by the Treasurer (see Annex V: Report of the Treasurer - Annex IV: Budget proposal 2013).

On the background of the financial risk connected with the Annual Meetings due to *Force-majeure* the EMS Budgets should always be set out to be balanced. Taking into account the implications in changes of Membership Fee contributions from Permanent Members from 2013 onwards, the treasurer requested to revise the planned budget in order to avoid having a negative balance.

The publication of contributions from the EMS Annual Meetings in the Open Access Journal ASR has been financially supported by the EMS since 2007 to encourage submissions to these volumes. About 40 to 50 papers are now published each year, and it appears that subvention is no longer necessary, in particular if the inclusion of the ASR volumes in the Science Citation Index is successful. The Council agreed that no subvention will be offered for the ASR publication for EMS & ECAC 2012 papers.

It is proposed that the Budget for the Awards is kept at the lower limit (11 000€) and only in case of a more positive balance in the previous year than expected the amount can be increased again.

A decision on the overall Budget for 2013 will be taken at the 27th Session of Council in September 2012.

14. Council Composition

The Council will have to make a proposal for the term 2012 – 2014 to the EMS General Assembly in September 2012.

The Israel Meteorological Society has already in 2011 accepted to be proposed for representation on the EMS Council for the term 2012-2014.

Taking into account Europe-wide geographical representation, capabilities in terms of resources and that rotation should encompass all Member Societies, the following societies should be approached in the given order with a request to consider representation on the EMS Council for the next two years:

- PTG – Meteorological Section, Poland
- IMS, Ireland
- UMFVG, Italy
- FIV, Iceland
- CY.MET.A, Cyprus

15. Memoranda of Understanding

Agreements on mutual beneficial collaboration with the European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) are up for renewal (Annex X). The extension of both these agreement was welcome by the Council; it also approved the proposed revision of the MoU with the AMS in paragraph 2. *Representation at annual meeting*, replacing sentence two in paragraph two by:

"The travel, lodging and registration costs associated with the representative will be borne by the organization sending the representative and not by the host society."

Resolutions C159 (8:0:0) and C160 (8:0:0).

16. Next Council Session

The 27th Session of the EMS Council will convene on Sunday, 9 September 2012, in Łódź, Poland.

Martina Junge
28 March 2012

ANNEX A: Resolutions 26th Session of the EMS Council

Resolution C157

This EMS Council approves the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution C158

This EMS Council selects Professor Tim Palmer as recipient of the EMS Silver Medal 2012.

Citation: 'The EMS Silver Medal 2012 is awarded to Professor Timothy Palmer for his pioneering work on predictability of weather and climate and for his outstanding skills and commitment in communicating the underlying concepts to non-specialists and the general public in Europe and beyond.'

Resolution C159

This EMS Council decides to extend the agreement between AMS and the EMS on collaboration and mutual benefits by five years, and approves the revision of paragraph 2: *"The travel, lodging and registration costs associated with the representative will be borne by the organization sending the representative and not by the host society."*

Resolution C160

This EMS Council decides to extend the agreement between ESSL and the EMS on collaboration and mutual benefits by five years.