

33rd EMS Council Session
06 September 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

Minutes of 28 October 2015

Participants: (*voting councillors underlined*)

Marius Birsă (NMA Romania), representing NMHS observer group

Ekaterina Batchvarova (BMS, Bulgaria)

Horst Böttger (EMS President)

Tanja Cegnar (Chair Media Team)

Jean-Pierre Chalon (SMF, France)

Renato R. Colucci (UMFVG, Italy)

Tomáš Halenka (ČMeS, Czech Republic); also Chair of the EMS Project Team Education

Sylvain Joffre (GFL and GS, Finland); also Chair EMS Committee on Meetings

Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)

Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Joanna Wibię (PTG-Met. Section, Poland)

Luís Pessanha (APMG, Portugal) could not attend.

9 Council representatives were present, the quorum is 7.

The Session opened at 09:00h and closed at 13:00h.

Minutes: Martina Junge

1. Opening of the 33rd Session

The EMS President opened the 33rd Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants. This was followed by Ekaterina Batchvarova welcoming the EMS Council on behalf of all the hosts of EMS & ECAM 2015 and expressed their pride in hosting this important event in Bulgaria.

With nine councillors present, the necessary quorum was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

2. Acceptance of Agenda and early announcement of any AOB

A preliminary agenda was distributed with the invitation to attend the Council meeting. It was agreed to discuss the Budget for the year 2016 after the Treasurer's Report as item 7. With this change the agenda was accepted. For agenda point AOB (15) no items were announced.

3. Implementation of decisions taken at the 32nd Session of the EMS Council

The draft minutes of the 32nd Session of the EMS Council have been distributed to all participants of this meeting. Revisions that were submitted to the Executive Secretary within four weeks after distribution have been implemented. The minutes were then distributed to EMS Members. The minutes were subsequently held adopted (Rules of procedure 57) and are available from <http://www.emetsoc.org/governance-structure/council/council-meetings>.

The implementation of decisions recorded in the minutes has been detailed in paper *C33_03_Implementation-of-Decisions-C32*, provided in part II of the minutes – Annexes. All decisions have been implemented.

In addition to recording decisions, the minutes also identify short-term actions: these included the review of the EMS strategy (B. Riddaway), a proposal for the treatment of non-selected nominations for the EMS Awards (B. Riddaway), development of a proposal for a critical level of reserve and how to plan future budgets (Bureau) and the ECTOM database (H. Schlünzen, L. Pessanha); all were reported during the Council Session under their respective agenda items.

4. Report of the President

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session as well as on initiatives taken by the EMS Bureau (part II – Annexes: paper *C33_04_Report-President-Bureau*).

The EMS Annual Report 2014, which is submitted to the EMS General Assembly, has been finalised and distributed to Members via the EMS Website in August.

The President reported on his participation at the 150th anniversary of the ÖGM 150 in Innsbruck. At this event he had an opportunity to hand out certificates to two recipients of EMS YSTAs for the ICAM conference, taking place the same week.

The President reported that the fourth meeting of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) is now planned for 13/14 January 2016 in New Orleans, sponsored by the Canadian CMOS and the AMS and held during the AMS Annual Meeting. The EMS intends to participate in the meeting.

The Bureau, at its quarterly meeting, prepared the agenda for the Council Session and the General Assembly. In addition it considered the EMS Strategy, the treatment of non-selected nominations and the new awards, the level of free reserves and issues related to Copernicus.

C33.01 Report of the President and Bureau: Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau. (Votes: 9:0:0)

5. Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary reported on the activities and actions of the Secretariat since the last Council Session (part II – Annexes: paper *C33_05_Report-Secretariat*).

On behalf of the entire Council, the President thanked the staff of the secretariat for their excellent work and support.

6. Report of the Treasurer

The financial report, as given by the Treasurer to the EMS Council, is provided in part II – Annexes: paper *C33_06_Report-Treasurer*.

C33.02 Allocation of Free Reserves: Council decided to allocate 7 309.53€ of the income 2014 to the Free Reserve (Freie Rücklage). (Votes: 9:0:0)

The Council took note of the audit report for the EMS Accounts 2014.

C33.03 Report of the Treasurer: Council approved the Report of the Treasurer. (Votes: 9:0:0)

7. Budget 2016

A proposal for the EMS Budget 2016 was presented to the EMS Council as provided in part II – Annexes: paper *C33_12_Budget2016*. It was noted that the balance is expected to be negative at the end of the year 2016. Given that the assumed income from the licence fee for the Annual Meeting of 40,000 Euro may not be achieved, a negative balance of about 20,000 Euro may result. However, it was emphasised that the assumed income of 40,000 Euro is considered to be an average over a three-year period.

C33.04 Budget 2016: Council approved the Budget 2016 as presented by the Treasurer in paper C33_12_Budget2016. (Votes: 9:0:0)

Action: The Bureau will reconsider the budget after the outcome of the EMS & ECAM 2015 is known and report any changes to Council.

8. EMS Meetings: CoM report

The Chair of the EMS Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee, the preparations for the EMS & ECAM 2015 and arrangements for the forthcoming Annual Meeting in 2016. He also conveyed the recommendation of the CoM regarding future venues and proposed the renewal of the term of office of two members of the CoM (part II – Annexes: paper C33_07_Report-CoM).

a. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2015

It was noted that only one third of participants agreed to be on the public list. The list should also be available for the 2016 conference.

b. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC 2016

C33.05 EMS & ECAC 2016 Conference theme: Council approved the following theme for the EMS & ECAC 2016 in principle: “Where the atmosphere, sea and land meet: bridging the gaps between sciences, applications and stakeholders”. (Votes: 9:0:0)

c. EMS Annual Meeting and ECAM 2017

C33.06 Dates of the EMS & ECAM 2017: Council approved the shift of the conference week to 04 – 08 September 2017. (Votes: 9:0:0)

d. Future venues

Council considered the information on the proposed venues and the recommendation by the CoM.

C33.07 Venue for the EMS Annual Meeting 2018: Council agreed to hold the EMS Annual Meeting 2018 at the Corvinus University in Budapest. The dates will be 03 – 07 September 2018. (Votes: 9:0:0)

Council agreed that DTU, Denmark, would be a suitable venue, should DaMS uphold its proposal for the year 2019.

Action: CoM will further explore the possibility of holding the 2019 Annual Meeting in Denmark with DaMS and the DTU administration.

C33.08 CoM Membership: Council approved the membership of Renate Hagedorn and Ewen McCallum for a new term until autumn 2018. (Votes: 9:0:0)

e. Strategic Issues

Workshops

Council took note of the cancellation of all three workshops that were announced in connection with the EMS & ECAM 2015. The conflict of specifying a deadline for organisational purposes and people making decisions on participation at a much later stage must be addressed. The CoM was asked to consider possible options. In any case, the workshop programme should be continued and aim to attract specific communities.

Strengthening of participation

Steps to include major projects and new communities into the conference resulted in a new session on *Copernicus Climate Change Service*. Other promising avenues are also being pursued and look promising.

Exhibition

The strategic decision to create a new programme group on measurements and observations was welcomed as a step towards increasing the attractiveness of the EMS for exhibitors. Consideration for having a workshop on instrumentation and observations was recommended.

The President thanked the Chair of the CoM and the entire committee for their excellent work and underlined that the activities and initiatives of the committee are of utmost importance for the activities and profile of the EMS.

9. Strategy Review

A report on the status of the Strategy Review was presented by Bob Riddaway (part II – Annexes: paper C33_08_StrategicPlan). A number of issues (listed in the document) were identified about which the guidance of members of Council was sought. A short summary of feedback is provided in Annex B.

Action: Bob Riddaway will take account of the feedback provided by Council when preparing a revised draft of the strategy plan that will be sent to all Council members for their comment. The intention is have a near-final version of the strategic plan for consideration by the C34 Council Session in spring 2016.

10. Awards & Prizes

10.1. 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 and planned activities that will include the call for nominations for the Silver Medal 2016.

C33.09 Membership of Awards Committee: Council approved the extension of the terms of office of all members for three years until autumn 2018. Council also approved Gudrun Nína Petersen as chair of the awards committee until autumn 2018. (Votes: 9:0:0).

10.2. EMS Technology Achievement Award

Following Council decision C32.10 on the establishment of the new EMS Technology Achievement Award, the proposed candidates for membership of the selection committee were contacted and invited to join the committee.

C33.10 Membership of Selection Committee for the Technology Achievement Award: Council approved the following individuals as members of the Selection Committee for a term of three years: Ben Dieterink (The Netherland, chair), Robert Mureau (The Netherlands), Gerhard Steinhorst (Germany), Bernard Strauss (France) and Isabella Weger (Austria/UK). (Votes: 9:0:0).

C33.11 Terms of Reference for the Technology Achievement Award: Council approved revised Terms of Reference as detailed in Annex C. (Votes: 9:0:0).

10.3. Treatment of non-selected award nominations

C33.12 Treatment of non-selected award nomination: Council approved that nominations for the Silver Medal, Broadcast Meteorologist Award, Outstanding Contribution Award and Technology Achievement Award are forwarded one time if not successful. (Votes: 9:0:0)

10.4. Europhotometeo 2016

C33.13 EPM16 Pre-selection committee: Council appointed the following members to the EPM'16 pre-selection committee: Constanta Boroneant (RMS, Romania), Emily Gleeson (IMS, Ireland), Daniel Pavlinovic (HMD, Croatia), Ramón Pascual (AME, Spain), Marion Schnee (DMG, Germany), Michael Spengler (SGM, Switzerland), Martin Setvak (CMeS, Czech Republic), Marco Virgilio (UMFVG, Italy). (Votes: 9:0:0)

C33.14 EPM16 Terms of Reference and prizes: Council approved the Terms of Reference and prizes for the Europhotometeo 2016 as proposed in paper C33_09-04_EPM16 (part II – Annexes). (Votes: 9:0:0)

10.5. EMS Tromp Award

A report on the first announcement and selection process for the EMS Tromp Award was presented. An agreement that formalises the collaboration was developed together with the Tromp Foundation. (part II – Annexes: C33_09-05_EMS-Tromp-Award)

C33.15 Agreement EMS – Tromp Foundation: Council approved the agreement as it was presented in paper C33_09-05_EMS-Tromp-Award, part II – Annexes.(Votes: 9:0:0)

11. Review of Project Teams, boards and committees

A review of the work of the Teams on Media and Education as well as the Editorial Board was presented (part II – Annexes: paper C33_10_Review-Project-Teams).

Media

The chair of the Media Team presented a compilation of the expertise required for members of the selection committees for the Media Awards as requested by Council (C32.14), and also for members of the Media Team.

C33.16 Expertise on Media Team and Media awards selection committees: Council noted and appreciated the criteria for membership as set out in paper C33_10_Review-Project-Teams, part II – Annexes.(votes: 9:0:0)

Education Team

In order for Council members to get a clearer picture on how much work is required from EMS Members to initially fill the data base, Heinke Schlünzen (University of Hamburg, and Council member) had volunteered to take on this task for her university/country. A verbal report on her experience in filling the ECTOM2 database was given. She concluded that the information required is changing every term or year and would require continuous updating by the national partners – a task that was felt too demanding to do in addition to the professional demands on work and free time.

Council discussed in detail about the approach and the complexity required. Throughout the discussions, education matters were considered relevant and potentially profile-rising for the EMS on a broader scale, but it was felt that a new approach and objectives with a wider base of education experts would be necessary in order to achieve feasible and tangible outcomes.

The Chair of the Education Team pointed out to Council that the EMS may lose a show-case of collaborative efforts, but that he would continue this work in any case, irrespective of it being labelled EMS Project.

C33.17 ECTOM2 Database: Council agreed that the ECTOM database will be disbanded as an EMS Project. (Votes: 9:0:0)

12. Membership

Dormant Membership

The Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET, Spanish NMHS) was not able to pay the EMS Associate Membership fees for 2014 until 01 September 2015. According to the Council decision C168 in March 2013, in principle non-payment by 01 September the following year (or the General Assembly, whichever is earlier) will result in the EMS membership being considered “dormant”.

The AEMET is considered a “Dormant Member” from 01 September 2015. Should payments come forward the membership will be reinstated without going through a new application process.

13. Council Composition 2015 – 2016

The council proposal as approved at the 32nd Session (C32.19) was prepared for the General Assembly. ÖGM and SMS Sweden have communicated names of their representatives on the EMS Council (Annex II – paper C33_13_Council-Composition).

14. Election of EMS Officers

The representative of the Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS) on the EMS Council, Bob Riddaway, will leave Council after the C33 Session. The RMetS has nominated Ewen McCallum as his replacement.

C33.18 Election Vice-President: Council elected Jean-Pierre Chalon (Météo et Climat, France) as Vice-President for the term autumn 2015 – autumn 2018. (Votes: 9:0:0).

Jean-Pierre Chalon accepted the election as EMS Vice-President. He had been Treasurer of the EMS and resigned from this Office with his election as Vice-President.

C33.19 Election Treasurer: Council elected K. Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany) as Treasurer for the term autumn 2015 – autumn 2018. (Votes: 9:0:0).

K. Heinke Schlünzen accepted the election as EMS Treasurer.

15. AOB

No item was discussed under this agenda item.

16. 34th Council Session

C33.20 Venue for 34th Council Session: Council decided that its 34th Session will be held on 17 and 18 March 2016 in Berlin, Germany, during the DACH2016 conference. (Votes: 9:0:0).

In closing, the President thanked all council representatives and committee chairs for their attendance and active participation in this session. He in particular thanked the outgoing Council members Joanna Wibig, Sylvain Joffre and Bob Riddaway for all their work and contributions, the latter also for his work as Vice President, and Jean-Pierre Chalon for his work as Treasurer in recent years.

ANNEX A: List of Decisions of the EMS Council at its 33rd Session, 06September2015

- C33.01 Report of the President and Bureau:** Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau.
- C33.02 Allocation of Free Reserves:** Council decided to allocate 7 309.53€ of the income 2014 to the Free Reserve (Freie Rücklage).
- C33.03 Report of the Treasurer:** Council approved the Report of the Treasurer.
- C33.04 Budget 2016:** Council approved the Budget2016 as presented by the Treasurer in paper C33_12_Budget2016.
- C33.05 EMS & ECAC 2016 Conference theme:** Council approved the following theme for the EMS & ECAC 2016 in principle: “Where the atmosphere, sea and land meet: bridging the gaps between sciences, applications and stakeholders”.
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- C33.19 Election Treasurer:** Council elected K. Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany) as Treasurer for the term autumn 2015 – autumn 2018.
- C33.20 Venue for 34th Council Session:** Council decided that its 34th Session will be held on 17 and 18 March 2016 in Berlin during the DACH2016 conference.
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Annex B:

- ***What guidance can be provided to the Committee on Meetings about the future direction of the Annual Meeting?***
 - > The route to attract new communities is the right strategy.
 - > The call for proposals should be continued.
 - > Public outreach events that have been organised in the past help to raise the profile both of the local hosts and the EMS.
 - > The above directions should be further explored.
 - ***Should greater efforts be made to raise the profile of ASR?***
 - > High profile through focussing?
 - > Is there a niche? → outreach and communication
 - ***Are these various awards helpful to increase the attractiveness and impact of EMS and its meetings?***
 - > Yes, they raise the profile of the EMS, both, the travel awards and the achievement/excellence awards like the Silver Medal and all the media awards.
 - > YSTAs: they “give societies something back”.
 - ***Is there any intention to enhance cooperation with societies/organisations outside Europe?***
 - > The focus should primarily remain on Europe; involvement in IFMS as a means to exchange experience is welcome.
 - ***Should the EMS negotiate with EUMETNET about EUMETCAL resources being made available to universities?***
 - > To negotiate on behalf of universities without communicating with them about possible directions is not an objective of the EMS.
 - ***Is the project team and committee structure suitable for the period 2016-2020?***
 - > In principle the approach for the structure appears suitable; however, this should be considered as part of the implementation of the strategy once this has been reviewed and defined.
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Annex C: Technology Achievement Award – Terms of Reference

The EMS Technology Achievement Award is granted to individuals or corporations in recognition of technological contributions associated with instrumentation and methodologies used in meteorology and related sciences (e.g. oceanography, atmospheric chemistry and hydrology) and their applications that have the potential for Europe-wide impact. Such developments could include instrumentation, measurements, data acquisition, data handling, data analysis techniques, and algorithms and information systems along with technological developments underpinning forecasting methods and validation/verification techniques.

Corporations should be understood in a broad sense, including companies, institutions, associations, projects and international organisations.

The EMS Technology Achievement Award is normally awarded annually in the form of a certificate presented to the recipient during the award ceremony of the EMS Annual Meeting.

A call for proposals will be issued by the EMS Secretariat in autumn each year.

EMS Member Societies and EMS Associate Members and their respective members or staff are eligible to make nominations for the EMS Technology Achievement Award.

A Selection Committee of at least five members, including the chair, is appointed by Council for the EMS Technology Achievement Award. Each member of the Selection Committee should:

- be a member of an EMS Member Society or a member of staff of one of the EMS Associate Members;
- normally have a three-year term of office.

The committee has the task of:

- developing criteria necessary for the evaluation of the nominated candidates;
- defining the documentation required for each nomination;
- evaluating the nominations and making a recommendation to the EMS Council.

The final selection of an awardee is the task of the EMS Council.
