

Text of lecture held by René Morin at the 17th IIPS International Conference, organized by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) — 15-18 January 2001, Albuquerque

Goals and activities of the European Meteorological Society (EMS)

(First of all, I would like to thank the IIPS Conference Committee, particularly Floyd Hauth and Horst Boettger, for inviting EMS to present its goals and activities to this very distinguished audience. This conference mainly deals with communication, and ways to achieve and improve it. In this spirit I feel honoured to present to you here at the IIPS Conference views and perspectives which might appear to have a foreign air but which, as you soon will see, contain opportunities, which are beyond continental limitations).

Introduction.

At first sight, EMS appears to be very close to AMS, the only distinction being the territory covered. A further similarity is apparent in the Web address: emetsoc.org against ametsoc.org. You may conclude that EMS is a European version of the American Meteorological Society. Of course, we would be very proud to be compared to AMS. But that is where differences show: AMS has 81 years of very efficient experience and fantastic success, of magnificent achievements and initiatives. EMS is just one year old and would very much like to ride on the same tracks as AMS and be as successful. On the other hand, the situation in Europe is, in many ways, very different from that in the USA. You are one country, with one language, whereas Europe, although on its way to unify, is still composed of various countries, each with its own language, traditions and organizations. Furthermore, most European countries have their National Meteorological Society. Some of them, founded in the 19th century, have played an important role particularly in establishing the National Weather Services and subsequently supporting and encouraging them. Today, all of them are very active in promoting meteorology, mostly on a national level. Their initiatives are necessary and will continue.

I invite you to take a look to Table 1 giving the original name of some European Meteorological Societies with the date of foundation.

Table 1

Name	Date of foundation
Associação Portuguesa de Meteorologia e Geofísica (APMG), Portugal	1996
Asociación Meteorológica Espanola (AME), Spain	1964
Associazione Geofisica Italiana (AGI), Italy	
Ceska Meteorologická Spolecnost (eMS), Czech Republic	1958
Dansk Meteorologisk Selskab, Denmark	1979
Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft (DMG), Germany	1883
Helliniki Meteorologiki Hetairia (HMH), Greece	1974
Félag Ösleskra Veourfræoinga (FIV), Iceland	1955
Geofysiikan Seura (GS), Finland	1926
Hrvatsko Meteorolosko Drustvo (HMD), Croatia	1965
Irish Meteorological Society, Ireland	1981
Magyar Meteorológiai Társaság (MMT), Hungary	1925

Nederlandse Vereniging voor Beroeps Meteorologen (NVBM), Netherlands	1991
Norsk Geofysisk Forening, Norway	1917
Open Meteorological Society of Yugoslavia (OMS), Yugoslavia	2000
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie (öGM), Austria	1865
Polskie Towarzystwo Geofizyczne, Poland	
Royal Meteorological Society (RMS), United Kingdom	1850
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Meteorologie (SGM), Switzerland	1916
Slovenska Meteorologická Spoločnosť (SMS), Slovakia	1958
Slovensko Meteorološko Drustvo (SMD), Slovenia	1954
Societatea Meteorologica Romana (SMR), Romania	1991
Société Météorologique de France (SMF), France	1852
Société Royale Belge d'Astronomie, de Météorologie et de Physique du Globe, Belgium	1894
Svenska Meteorologiska Sällskapet (SMS), Sweden	1957
Unione Italiana METeorologia (UNIMET), Italy - a union of three Italian Societies:	
— Societá Italiana di Meteorologia Applicata (SIMA)	
— Societá Meteorologica Subalpina (SMS)	
— Associazione Italiana di AgroMeteorologia (AIAM)	
The first Italian Meteorological Society was founded in	1865
To the best of my knowledge, the other European countries do not have a Meteorological Society.	

1/ History

The historical background has to be taken in account and explains some differences between the AMS and the EMS. It is also a reason why the creation of EMS took some years.

The story began in 1993, during the First European Conference on the Applications of Meteorology (ECAM 93) organized by the National Meteorological Services of Europe in Oxford (UK). There, representatives of some European Meteorological Societies met for the first time following an initiative of a Dutch meteorologist, Jon Wieringa. The idea was to establish a first contact between the existing Meteorological Societies in Europe. Although I personally proposed a number of potential ways of cooperation, and offered, for example, to organize a meeting of the European Meteorological Societies during the following ECAM, the main real output was that each of us had a clear view of all the existing other Societies, a potential strength for the future.

The Second Meeting took place in 1995 at Météo-France, Toulouse (France) during ECAM 95. It was prepared well in advance and led to a number of decisions:

- to establish close contacts between the Societies, then called EMS's for : " European Meteorological Societies ",
- to issue a Newsletter reporting on the activities of the EMS's,
- to prepare a European Catalogue of Training Opportunities in Meteorology (ECTOM), a compilation of the meteorological courses taught at European Universities, Institutes and specialized Schools for the education and training of professional meteorologists.

Furthermore, I was nominated the secretary of EMS, charged with producing the EMS Newsletter and responsible for further activities, mostly the preparation of subsequent meetings.

At the Third Meeting, during ECAM 97 in Lindau (Germany), I launched the idea of a "European Meteorological Society (EMS)". Right away, many European Meteorological Societies favoured the

idea. It was then decided to prepare a Constitution and submit it to all the Societies. The first draft of the Constitution was circulated in October 1998, and the final version was approved by the EMS's in May 1999. Finally, the EMS was established on the 14 September 1999, during ECAM 1999, in Norrköping (Sweden).

The EMS's owe a great debt of gratitude to the organizers of ECAM, mostly National Meteorological Services (NMSs), who have hosted meetings of the EMS's and invited Werner Wehry (at present President of the German Meteorological Society) and myself as members of the International ECAM organizing Committee. They have encouraged and praised the creation of the EMS. It is a clear sign that the NMSs recognize the positive and important role of the Meteorological Societies and are willing to co-operate with the EMS. Similarly, industry and the private sector indicated that they welcome the birth of EMS.

2/ **Organization**

2-1/ Membership

2-1-1/ *Members:*

EMS Members are not individuals but National Meteorological Societies of Europe: at present, EMS has 22 Member Societies from 21 European Countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy (2 Societies), the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. The total number of members of all Member Societies is more than 10 000.

When referring to Table 1, you will notice that the Meteorological Society of three countries have not (yet!) joined. They are: Denmark, Norway, and Poland. Yugoslavia, whose Meteorological Society was recently established, has just applied. A meteorological Society is being formed in Bulgaria.

2-1-2/ *Associate Members:* EMS has recently introduced Associate Membership and has proposed it successfully to European Meteorological Organizations (such as EUMETSAT, ECMWF, Reading, UK), the National Meteorological Services in Europe, meteorological instruments' manufacturers, private sector services, and some other partners. All Associate Members will share the flow of information within EMS. They will be invited to attend the General Assembly, without voting rights, but able to make statements, comment and advise. They also will play an important role in the EMS Council. The European Meteorological Organizations will be Permanent Observers at Council Meetings without voting rights, but able to make statements, comment, advise, offer support. Other Associate Members will form into groups proposed by Council (NMSs, private Services, industry...). Each group will elect one representative as observer to Council.

2-2/ Council

The EMS Council is composed of

- 3 Councillors representing the permanent Council Members (the Meteorological Societies of France, Germany and the United Kingdom),
- 6 Councillors representing the non-permanent Council Members; renewed every two years (at present Meteorological Societies of Austria, Croatia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovakia). Three Vice-Presidents are elected each year, but are eligible for re-election. At present they are:
- Stan Cornford, also Treasurer (the Royal Meteorological Society, UK),

- Fritz Neuwirth (Austrian Meteorological Society),
- Jon Wieringa (Dutch Meteorological Society).

I have been elected president for three years.

The Executive Secretary is Arne Spekat (Berlin, Germany) email: mailto:ems_sec@bibo.met.fu-berlin.de

3/ **Goal.**

In the words of our Constitution: "The objectives of the Society are to advance meteorology (and sciences related to it) at a European-wide level, and to assist the development of applications of these subjects for the benefit of the people of Europe and elsewhere. To these ends, the Society will concentrate its efforts into activities which can only be carried out at the European level, or which are carried out more effectively at that level than by a single Member Society".

Among other aims, EMS intends to contribute to strengthening contacts between the various actors in meteorology and related sciences, to offer a "forum" for free discussions aiming to better meet our common goals of economic well-being and the protection of life and property.

4/ **Activities**

4-1/ Scientific Conferences.

EMS will organize or co-organize European Scientific Conferences and/or International Conferences when held in Europe.

We co-organized with the German Meteorological Society the Potsdam Symposium commemorating the "50th Anniversary of the Numerical Weather Forecasting", March 9-10, 2000. Some of the most famous figures in Numerical Weather Prediction took part. The unusual format, which allowed all speakers to talk for about 40 minutes, was very well taken and felt like something for a change from standard conferences with parallel sessions and short presentation, which have their *raison d'être* of course, as we see right here at the IIPS.

The First EMS Annual Meeting will take place in Budapest (Hungary) on 25-26 September 2001, together with ECAM 2001. The EMS Meeting will focus on "The future of meteorology in Europe" and include invited speakers on the following topics and their evolution in the next ten years :

Political, economic and social developments in Europe (Anver Ghazi, European Union Commission),

Demands on meteorology (John Zillman, WMO President),

The tools of meteorology:

Observational Meteorology (Tillman Mohr, Director EUMETSAT)

Weather prediction techniques (David Burridge, Director European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, Reading, UK),

Dissemination of meteorological information (to be determined).

The structure of Meteorology in Europe

Linkages between public meteorological entities (Claude Pastre, EUMETNET),

Linkages between the National Meteorological Services in Europe (J.P. Beysson, Chairman Météo-France, France, and Ivan Mersich, Chairman Hungarian Meteorological Service, Hungary),

Linkages between providers of meteorological products, advice and data :

(A perspective from the National Weather Services (Hans Sandebring, Director Sweden Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Sweden),

(A perspective from a private commercial provider (Harry Otten, Executive Director Meteconsult, the Netherlands).

A Round Table discussion will conclude the Meeting.

Following an agreement with the ECAM International Planning Committee, EMS intends to become the organizational structure for future ECAM Conferences as part of the EMS Annual Meetings. The same will be true for other European periodical Conferences, at present organized by various entities. European meteorologists have often called for something to be done to minimize conflicting dates and subject matter. To satisfy this demand, EMS is in the process of setting up a scheme whereby organizers of meteorological conferences anywhere can indicate their intentions early in the planning stage of a meeting and benefit from knowing others' intentions. If it is to succeed, this will call for considerable openness, and mutual trust, in the early stages when meetings are being conceived.

4-2/ Certification of professional Meteorologists and broadcasting Meteorologists will be dealt with by EMS. In this field EMS will benefit of the long experience of a number of its Member Societies. A first meeting on the subject took place in Cambridge (UK), July 2000 (Details are given on the EMS web site: <http://emetsoc.org>)

4-3/ Education of youth in meteorology is one of the most important actions to be undertaken by our Society. Developments are under way. They will be based on the experience of the Member Societies and are to be developed in close contact with the NMSs and other actors. We will gather the information on efforts in meteorological education in Member Societies and together with them make a plan to build on their efforts (to culminate in action before the Madrid Conference on School and popular Education in 2003, where EMS will play an important role). ECTOM (see §1/History) will also be updated.

4-4/ The Newsletter is to be continued in its printed form, together with development of electronic information on our web site <http://www.emetsoc.org>.

4-5/ Editing of important papers presented in our scientific conferences is envisaged. Issuing a scientific Journal together with a more popular Journal has not been considered so far.

4-6/ One important point is to establish good working relationship with the European Organizations (European Union Commission, the European Geophysical Society, etc), with other non-European Meteorological Societies, particularly AMS, and of course WMO.

I am well aware that at present the levels of EMS activities are rather low if you compare them to those of AMS. But please bear in mind the achievements of all our Members Societies: their experience and support will be of great help for a rapid development. These achievements, and the enthusiasm of all involved are the reasons for my firm belief that we have a successful road ahead of us. My vision is that eventually we shall play a role in Europe comparable with that of the AMS in the USA.

5/ **Conclusion.**

To conclude, it is worth putting EMS into the general European background. In fact EMS is only one of the many European scientific bodies, which recently decided to coordinate old national Societies within a federal Organization. Also to be noted is the trend for merging national scientific

Journals into European Journals (in English !). All of this is the result of the action of the scientific community and of individual initiatives. To my personal view, it is clearly the sign that Europe is developing its own cultural identity and is becoming a country. I do hope that EMS, in parallel with the governmental Organizations, will play its specific role at the European level. If we pursue this course, I strongly believe that we will be contributing to the creation of Europe as a democratic country and to its economic well-being.

On a personal note, after my European experience at EURATOM (European Atomic Energy Agency), in the ESA (European Space Agency) program and as a consultant to the European Union in close contact with the Space industry, I have been impressed by the great capacity of initiatives and progress of the European meteorological community. This is why I hope that the "forum " opened by EMS will become a ground for straightforward but friendly discussions leading to ongoing and ever-developing cooperation and success.

René Morin
EMS
