

**11<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**  
27 September 2009  
Toulouse, France

Draft Minutes of 15 November 2009

**Participants:** (voting representatives of EMS Societies/member states underlined)

Fernando Aguado (AME, Spain)

Christophe Billard (SMF, Meteo France; PT professional practices)

Constanta Boroneant (RMS, Romania)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD Slovenia)

Renato Colucci (UMFVG, Italy)

Zoltan Dunkel (MMT, Hungary)

Dario Giaiotti (UMFVG, Italy)

Tomáš Halenka (CmeS, Czech Republic)

Valentin Kazandjiev (AMC, Bulgaria)

Simon Krichak (IMS, Israel)

Dominique Lapeyre de Chavardès (Météo France, observer for NMHSs)

Dominique Marbouty (ECMWF, permanent observer)

Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

Fritz Neuwirth (ÖGM, Austria)

Hálfván Ágústsson (FIV, Iceland)

Claude Pastre (SMF France)

Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, The Netherlands)

Vesna Petković (MDS, Serbia)

Michael Petrakis (HMS, Greece)

Rolf Philipona (SGM, Switzerland)

Ólafur Rögnvaldsson (FIV, Iceland)

Gerhard Steinhorst (DMG, Germany)

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Meteorol. Section, Poland)

18 Representatives of EMS Member Societies were present - the quorum is 10. Votes are given as (acceptance : rejection : abstention).

*Minutes: Martina Junge, Executive Secretary*

*Duration of meeting: 15:00 – 16:30*

**1. Opening of session**

The President welcomed all participants to the General Assembly.

**2. Acceptance of Agenda**

The Agenda was accepted as proposed (Annex I).

**3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

The minutes of the 10th session of the EMS General Assembly (Annex VIII) were accepted unanimously.

#### **4. Report of the President and the Bureau**

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last General Assembly and the activities of the Bureau and the Committees of Council (Annex II).

He emphasized that the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IF), is conceptualised as a platform for exchange on common issues and challenges; it is not intended to create a legal body; he also reported that the EMS Council did agree to foresee funds in the budget to support EMS Member Societies that would like to send a representative to the first meeting of the IF in January 2010, but lack sufficient means to support attendance.

Printed copies of the EMS Annual Report 2008 have been mailed to all Member societies and Associate Members and were available at the General Assembly.

The General Assembly approved the Report of the Bureau for the period September 2008-September 2009 (Resolution G91: 18:0:0: Discharge).

#### **5. Report of the Executive Secretary**

The EMS Executive Secretary reported on her activities since the last Council Session (Annex III) which were strongly focussed on the preparation of the EMS Annual Meeting in 2009, and support for EMS committee activities, in particular the Awards Committee and the Committee on Meetings.

The ems-message No.6 was published three days before the meeting. Referring to results from the questionnaire feedback of EMS Members, she asked the support from Members to provide information on their activities and experience, to share this among the community in Europe, for example via the ems-message.

#### **6. Report of the Treasurer**

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

##### **Financial Accounts 2008**

The report of the auditor on the financial accounts 2008 certifies that the accounting is consistent with the legal requirements and the requirements of the EMS constitution and that the balance was compiled in accordance with the legal and constitutional requirements. No significant shortcomings have been noted. The audit report is attached to the Report of the Treasurer.

##### **Forecast of the financial Accounts 2009**

The forecast of the financial accounts for 2009 assumes that the balance will be negative, with a decrease of more than 10 000€, compared to the balance at the end of 2008.

The funds available will be employed for new activities that spring from the work of the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

It was stressed again, that the organisation of Annual Meetings constitutes a considerable financial risk, and thus an increase of registration fees for future meetings had been agreed by the EMS Council (see budget 2010).

## **Budget 2010**

The following items have been discussed:

- registration fees for the Annual Meetings are increased from 2010 and no transport passes are being provided
- the EMS will make a call for a Europhotometeo competition: 3500€
- funds for publications are kept at the same level as in 2009: 6000€
- funds for the support of EMS Member societies to attend the first meeting of the International Forum in January 2010 are provided: collaboration 2000€
- funds are provided for a training workshop organised by the Media Team: 2000€

The General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2008 of the Treasurer (Resolution G92: 18:0:0: Discharge).

## **6.2 Appointment Auditor**

The Council proposed to the EMS General Assembly to commission a new auditor for the accounts 2009: Clemens Kucklick, Wirtschaftsprüfer, Berlin, Germany.  
<http://www.ckucklick-wp.de/>

The General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick, Berlin, Germany, as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2009. (Resolution G93: 18:0:0).

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

### **A. PADG**

The chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group, Claude Pastre, provided a report of the work of the PADG since the last Council Session (Annex V), that focussed on the results and first conclusions from the questionnaire feedback from Members.

The PADG will meet on 29 September 2009 in Toulouse. Three tasks are on the agenda:

- a) Prepare a proposal for a modification of the EMS Constitution. The objective is to have this proposal ready for the Council in Spring 2010 so that it could be approved by the General Assembly in Autumn 2010.
- b) Analyse in detail the results of the questionnaire and propose a list of actions.
- c) Work with the Project Managers to further progress their activities

The discussion considered whether a questionnaire that addresses individuals rather than Member organisations should be developed, and that more often the Member organisations should be consulted when there are different options for future activities.

To inform more about the EMS activities, and support the societies, a presentation should be developed, that summarises the activities of the EMS and possibilities to get involved. This could then be used for example at Annual Meetings of Member organisations.

The EMS should be kept as an association of societies, but benefits of Associate Members should be increased, and made better known where they exist.

## **Membership of the PADG:**

Claude Pastre is resigning as SMF representative on the EMS Council and also as chair of the PADG. Manuel Palomares (AME, Spain) and Bob Riddaway (RMetS, UK, as Chair), will join the Policy Advisory and Development Group.

Project Teams: plans of the project teams are appended in Annex V.

## **B. Education Project Team:**

The priority will be put on developing a portal on the emetsoc site that gives access to good examples and the vast material that is available for all educational levels. The language problem will continue to exist, but successful strategies and approaches can be made more visible.

In order to develop the ECTOM data base, a COST proposal is considered, as COST is now open for multidisciplinary actions.

## **C. Communication Project Team:**

A number of actions proposed in the plan such as inviting convenors of the Annual Meeting to provide summary reports of their session, and the development of a network of national communication contact points had already been started or completed by the time of the General Assembly Session.

## **D. Professional Practices Project Team:**

It was discussed whether the approach for the survey of operational and ongoing training should be rather global than focussed on European resources, but it was felt that the latter would be too ambitious.

## **E. Media Team:**

A training workshop for climatologists involved with the media only occasionally will be organised.

The workshop would take part on the premises of EARS, Slovenia, and be a joint undertaking of the EMS and the Department of Public Relations of the ministry of Slovenia. Participants will have to cover their own travel expenses; the EMS will provide the funds for the technical equipment for the workshop, advertise the workshop and collect the applications.

All plans of the project teams were subsequently further discussed in the meeting of the PADG in Toulouse, with regard to their practical implementation.

## 8. Activities of Member Societies and Associates

### AME, Spain:

- The AME will hold its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in March 2010, together with the Andalus society in Sevilla.
- Photos of the Fotometeo competition 2008 are published in the AME Bulletin.
- In December 2009, the ninth amateur AeMet forum, covering meteorology as well as astronomy, will be held in Bilbao.

### NVBM, The Netherlands:

- NVBM has elected a new president and a new council member. Both are very enthusiastic and have a lot of new ideas.
- NVBM holds two symposia in 2009:  
The focus of the spring meeting was on "the background of het Delta rapport". The Delta Committee was asked by the government to give advice about the protection of The Netherlands for the consequences of climate change. In particular the maximum possible level of sea level rise stated in the report incited a lot of discussion within our meteorological world.  
The focus of the autumn meeting was on "meteorological related research done at Wageningen University". This included PBL, air quality, scintillometrie, and urban heat islands.

### SMF, France:

- The new president of SMF is Jean Jouzel
- The SMF organises the sixth international Weather Forum (FIM 2009), from October 23 to 25, 2009, in Paris; this will include a symposium on "Cities and Climate Change"
- the online version of La Météorologie (journal of SMF) is developing satisfactorily.  
→ Note! A presentation on the making of the online version was given at the EMS&ECAM [http://www.emetsoc.org/annual\\_meetings/documents/2009/CE4\\_EMS2009-564.pdf](http://www.emetsoc.org/annual_meetings/documents/2009/CE4_EMS2009-564.pdf)

### CmeS, Czech Republic:

- The CMeS is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of its foundation in 1959
- the coming Annual Meeting will focus on the theme: meteorology serving society

### UMFVG, Italy (Friul, Venezia, Giulia):

- The UMFVG will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on 14 November 2009, and the programme will cover all aspects of snow. Contributions to the programme are also given by speakers from neighbouring countries (Slovenia: T.Cegnar, Austria: F. Stockinger).
- a new quarterly *transnational* journal is published, parts will be translated into English, and it will be available on the Internet

### SMR, Romania:

- The Romanian Meteorological Society co-organizes the Annual Scientific Meeting together with the National Meteorological Administration (NMA).
- SMR presents an award to a young scientist, presenting the most interesting research paper in the Annual Scientific Meeting. A jury installed by the SMR, independently evaluates and ranks the papers of the competitors for the SMR award.; NMA presents the "Nicolae Besleaga" award at the Annual Scientific Meeting to a young scientist; the criteria for this award are decided by NMA

- Twice a year, informal meetings called “Seasons” are organized for the SMR members. In spring (19 May 2009) the topic was “The history of the Observatory of Atmospheric Physics in Afumati, in Bucharest”; the autumn meeting (6 October 2009) will deal with the variability of the climate and climate change
- The society involves retired scientists in its activities by inviting them in informal meetings, annually. The last meeting was organized on October 5th 2009
- 125-year anniversary of the Romanian Meteorological Service: SMR prepared a booklet for publication called “Memento 125 – Professionals of Romanian Meteorology “. The booklet is available from the SMR web site at <http://smr.meteoromania.ro/smr/index.aspx>.

#### **IMS, Israel:**

- The new president of SMF is Noah Wolfson
- The IMS meets twice a year
- the online bulletin “Meteorology in Israel” is distributed free of charge via the Internet

#### **SMS, Slovakia:**

- A joint excursion with the Croatian meteorological society has been organised

#### **HMS, Greece:**

The president of the Greek Meteorological Society suggested that the EMS should be more proactive in linking regional activities. One example would be EUFAR.

## **9. Membership**

### **New Associate Members**

In spring 2009 the *Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University* has applied for EMS Associate Membership (Annex VIa), and in September 2009 the application of the private service provider WeatherBug was received (Annex VIb). The EMS Council has welcomed both applications, at its 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Session respectively. The General Assembly welcomed the two organisations as EMS Associate Members (Resolutions G94 and G95).

## **10. Council Composition**

Annex VII:

After this session of the General Assembly the term of Joanna Wibig (PTG–Meteorological Section, Poland) as EMS councillor will end. On behalf of the EMS, the President expressed his gratitude for her work and valuable contributions on the EMS Council and the PADG.

### **10.1 Election of Council Members**

The General Assembly elected the Norsk Meteorologiforening (NMF), represented by Matthias Mohr, to serve on the EMS Council for the term 2009 – 2011 (Resolution G96. 18:0:0).

The General Assembly agreed to elect in autumn 2010 two representatives on the Council for a **one-year term** (autumn 2010 – autumn 2011), in order to ensure that in future three council members can be newly elected to the Council each year.

## **10.2 Welcome of representatives of Permanent Council Members**

Claude Pastre informed the General Assembly that he will retire as representative of the SMF and SMF would nominate a successor on the EMS Council in due time. The President thanked Claude Pastre for his contributions to the work of the EMS Council and for driving forward the development of the PADG and the project approach in the EMS activities. The president also expressed his gratitude for his instrumental actions in the organisation of the EMS & ECAM meetings in Toulouse.

## **11. AOB**

No issues were presented under this agenda item.

## **12. Time and Place of next General Assembly**

The 11th EMS General Assembly will be held in Zürich, Switzerland, on 12 September 2010.

Martina Junge  
15 December 2009

**ANNEX A: Resolutions 11<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly**

**Resolutions:**

G91 Approval of Bureau Report September 2008 – September 2009

G92 Formal approval of Treasurer Report

G93 Appointment of an auditor

G94 Welcome of the Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University as Associate Member

G95 Welcome of WeatherBug AWS Technologies as Associate Member

G96 New Councillor Matthias Mohr (NMF, Norway)

**RESOLUTION G91**

This General Assembly approved the Bureau report for the period September 2008-September 2009. (Discharge)

**RESOLUTION G92**

This General Assembly approved the Financial Report 2008 of the Treasurer. (Discharge)

**RESOLUTION G93**

This General Assembly appointed Clemens Kucklick as the auditor for the accounts of the year 2009.

**RESOLUTION G94**

This General Assembly welcomed the *Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University*, as a new EMS Associate Member.

**RESOLUTION G95**

This General Assembly welcomed *WeatherBug Professional, AWS Technologies* as a new EMS Associate Member.

**RESOLUTION G96**

This General Assembly decided to invite Matthias Mohr to represent NFM, Norway, on the EMS Council for the term autumn 2009 – autumn 2011.