

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY**

August 20, 2009

Palazzo dei Congressi, Florence, Italy

Officers present:

Eugenia Dogliotti	President
David Kirkland	Vice-President
Micheline Kirsch-Volders	Past-President
Robert Baan	Treasurer
Francesca Pacchierotti	Secretary

Officer excused:

Jim Parry	Executive <i>ex officio</i>
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Invited:

Paul Fowler	EEMS Secretary 2009-2011
Gunnar Brunborg and Andrew Collins	EEMS 2010 Organizers
Jordi Surralles	EEMS 2011 Local Organizer
Anna Potts	Affinity Events

Councillors present:

Siegfried Knasmueller (Austria)
Jasna Franekic Colic (Croatia)
Pavel Rossner (Czech Republic/Slovak Republic)
Lisbeth Knudsen (Denmark)
Hannu Norppa (Finland)
Elisabeth Lorge (France)
Roland Froetschl (Germany)
Livia Anna (Hungary)
Stefano Bonassi (Italy)
Åse Krøkjje (Norway)
Danuta Mielzynska (Poland)
Olga Lavrik (Russia)
Jelena Knežević-Vukčević (Serbia)
Ricardo Marcos (Spain)
Frederik-Jan van Schooten (The Netherlands)
David Phillips (UK)

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is accepted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting, Cavtat, 21 Sep, 2008

No correction proposed. The minutes are approved.

3. Report from the Secretary

Newsletter

Version 50 was available in December 2008 and was posted on the website. According to the usual format, it contained activity reports from the local societies, including the aftermath of the Cavtat Meeting, and some updates on IAEMS and ICH activities. At the 2008 General Assembly it was agreed to edit only one issue of the Newsletter per year moving to the website some of its traditional content like the Local Society reports and the meeting announcements.

Membership update

The Secretary adjourns the Council on the membership figures with a total of 1444 entries and thanks the Russian councillor for the recent re-organisation of the local Section and the recruitment of 30 new members. She also thanks the GUM and Croatian representatives for updating their membership files and invites all Councillors to timely communicate additions and deletions, especially to keep the e-mailing list updated.

4. Website

On behalf of the webmaster Francesca Davies, Paul Fowler illustrates the new layout of the Society website, pointing to the page on last changes, to be checked for an easy updating.

David Kirkland invites the Councillors to make the website an interactive tool to address scientific questions to all members, and to contact Francesca Davies with any suggestions on how to improve the site itself.

NewLink, the Company managing the website, will be asked to make it possible for EEMS members to choose their own password to access the restricted website area.

5. Report from the Treasurer

RB provides the report of the EEMS accounts from January to December 2008 and from January to 17 August 2009. For 2008, the membership fees from the different local Societies and the contributions from our Sustaining Sponsors Unilever and Covance were the major source of income. Expenses included payment of the auditors, IAEMS fees 2006-2008, maintenance of the website, reimbursement of travel expenses for the winter Executive meeting and the different EEMS Awards. For more details on the finances, see Rob's report.

It is agreed that Robert Baan will remain Treasurer until the end of the year to finalise the 2009 financial report and to assist the new Treasurer, Anthony Luch, to take over his role.

6. Report from the President

At the end of her term as EEMS President, Eugenia Dogliotti summarises goals and achievements: promoting growth of the Society by attracting and retaining scientists from the near areas of mutation and human diseases and environmental genomics and epigenomics, improving communication and balance between basic and applied research, improving the financial asset with the creation of a Sponsorship Programme, improving the tutorial role of EEMS with the creation of Summer Courses (in progress), accompanying the transition towards a reorganisation of the Society with preparations of Guidelines for the Annual Meeting Organisation and Annex to the Rules documents.

EEMS Young Scientist Travel Awards and Young Scientist Sessions at X ICEM

Twelve awards were granted to young scientists from 10 different countries, out of 26 nominations received. In addition, one of the nominees received a grant from NIH/IAEMS funds made available to support X ICEM. Three young scientists were supported by their national societies (Italian, Russian and UK) to represent Europe in the ICEM Young Scientist Sessions.

7. Report from the Vice-President

David Kirkland reports about 2009 EEMS Awards. The Frits Sobels Award was assigned to Ilse-Dore Adler who, unfortunately, is not well and could not come to Florence. She will be invited to present her Award Lecture at the 2010 Meeting in Oslo. Two Young Scientist Prizes were awarded ex-aequo to Haiko van Attikum, who will give a presentation in one of the ICEM Symposia and Shareen Doak, who at the last moment was forced to cancel her participation for family illness and will be invited to present her talk at the 2010 Meeting.

David Kirkland underlines the need to increase the financial asset of the Society and attract sponsors. Unfortunately, Cefic declined his proposal to become a sustaining sponsor. The German Chemical Industry Association that sponsored the participation of young scientists to ICEM could be contacted again in the future to propose a similar support to EEMS Annual Meetings.

8. Report from the Past-President

Micheline Kirsch-Volders reports about the Vice-President election and the difficulties she encountered to find the candidates, probably because of diffuse concern about potential workload. Few votes have been received with respect to the number of EEMS members. David Kirkland proposes for the future to identify the candidates well in advance of their election to extend the voting period. Eugenia Dogliotti agrees and suggests that this could give the candidates the chance to introduce their program at the interim annual meeting. As usual, the result of the present election will be communicated at the General Assembly.

9. Appointment of a professional company for the management of the Annual Meeting

Anna Potts of Affinity Events introduces the Company that will manage the Organizing Secretariat of EEMS meetings starting from 2011 and reports about their experience with UKEMS meetings.

10. Future meetings

EEMS 2010

Gunnar Brunborg illustrates the plans for the organization of the 2010 EEMS Meeting in Oslo. On behalf of NordEMS he apologises for the scarce participation of its members to EEMS activities in the last few years and expresses his confidence that the meeting in Oslo will be a great opportunity to actively involve Scandinavian groups from basic and applied science.

A discussion is started about whether setting different registration fees for members and non-members and whether offering different levels of reimbursement to member and non-member invited speakers. David Kirkland reports about the US policy that is less supportive of members and differentiate between invited speakers from industry or academia.

David Kirkland strongly suggests to include social dinner in the Registration Fee because this could give the chance to everybody and especially the students to join it. He also suggests to fix the early bird fee deadline before the deadline for abstract submission.

Further discussion and decisions about these issues are postponed to the next EEMS Executive meeting with the local organisers.

David Kirkland also recommends to involve the Special Interest Groups in the preparation of the Scientific Programme. Eugenia Dogliotti strongly suggests to organise a Young Scientist Session along the successful practice of the last years.

EEMS 2011

Jordi Surralles presents the early planning for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Barcelona. Presumed date: end of June; 3.5 day duration, including both plenary and parallel (2) sessions. David Kirkland recommends to check and agree the exact dates with UKEMS to avoid conflicts and envisage the possibility to organise UKEMS as a satellite of EEMS. He also recommends to organise the poster exhibition in an area large enough to leave them all on display for the whole duration of the meeting.

11. Activity reports of Councillors

12. Reports from SIG coordinators

During General Assembly →.

13. Any other business

Micheline Kirsch-Volders invites all Councillors to join the Poster Award Evaluator Panel and share the task of poster reviews and interviews with presenting authors. Considering that each poster will be on display during only one of the three daily sessions, she proposes to assign 2 Prizes at the end of each day. Eugenia Dogliotti agrees for EEMS and David Phillips will be able to confirm his agreement for Mutagenesis after consultation. Since the competition will not be limited to European contributions, the reviewing panel will also include non-European members to be contacted.

David Kirkland invites the Councillors to think about the opportunity to hold or not the EEMS meeting in 2013, when the next ICEM will take place in Brasil, in view of the difficulties that EMS is facing this year with the organisation of its Annual Meeting due to competition with ICEM for sponsors and participants.

Francesca Pacchierotti, EEMS Secretary