

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY**

July 1, 2006

Prague Congress Center, Prague, Czech Republic

Officers present:

Micheline Kirsch-Volders	President
Eugenia Dogliotti	Vice-President
Krzysztof (Chris) Szyfter	Past-President
Marlies De Boeck	Secretary

Officers excused:

Robert Baan	Treasurer
Jim Parry	Executive <i>ex officio</i>

Invited:

Radim Šrám and Jan Topinka	EEMS 2006 Local Organizers
Hans-Joerg Martus	EEMS 2007 Local Organizer
Jasna Franekic Èolija and Verica Garaj-Vrhovac	EEMS 2008 Local Organizers

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting (December 17, 2005) were approved.

3. Report from the Secretary

3.1. New EEMS Councillors

The new EEMS councillors are:

- Czech & Slovak EMS: Dr. Pavel Rossner (Dr. Alena Gabelova)
- The Netherlands: Prof. Frederik-Jan van Schooten (Prof. Joost van Delft)
- UK: Dr. Steve Dean (Dr. Ian Mitchell)
- Croatia: Prof. Jasna Franekia Èolija (Dr. Vera Garaj-Vrhovac)

3.2. Electronic membership directory

Marlies will shortly send out a template file to the national councillors (in Excel) containing a number of pre-defined column titles that should be completed with member info. This file can then be updated each year by the councillors.

3.3. Newsletter

Starting from issue number 45, a PDF version of the Newsletter is available on the EEMS website. The newsletter was also sent out by e-mail to the national councillors for distribution among their members, with a request to specifically pay attention to the call for nominations for the YS, YST and FS awards and to the contest to design the new website. However, given the limited response that was received, it was felt that the intended audience was not reached. The committee considers that this is the responsibility of the councillors and will encourage them to take action.

The new newsletter (issue no. 46) is ready and will be available on the website shortly. It will also be distributed to the councillors.

3.4. Website

There was no response to the contest to design the new EEMS website. Marlies requested some prices from Belgian professional companies: Nuleen 4500 EUR; V-software: 2500-3000 EUR. It was suggested to spend 3000 EUR, after consulting Rob. The aim is to have it ready before the winter meeting of the executive committee. Marlies will also discuss with Rob the hosting of this new website.

The organizers of the EEMS 2007 meeting suggested to unite efforts and resources and to design a website that contains the general EEMS information and also a separate frame for the annual meetings (including online registration, online payment, ...). This will avoid that each local organizer needs to establish its own website for the annual meeting, which is always a large budget item. In a separate meeting with the EEMS 2007 organizers, it was agreed that they will provide a detailed quote from a Swiss company and that Marlies will inquire at a Belgian company to obtain a similar quote for comparison of prices.

3.5. Special interest groups

Marlies requested some clarification on the SIGs, which ones are still active and which ones not. The two SIGs that are mostly active are "Molecular epidemiology" (Peter Farmer) and Industrial Toxicology (David Kirkland). Others are "Ecotoxicology" (Ase Krokje), "Aneuploidy" (Jim Parry). The SIG "DNA repair" formerly lead by Bernard Salles is no longer active, but Eugenia will suggest someone to take over. Micheline will ask Jim about activities in the "Aneuploidy" SIG. Suggestions by councillors and members are welcome (will be requested by Marlies). SIGs will be stimulated to organize their own activities and to

have one session within the frame of an annual EEMS meeting (→ work in close contact with local organizers).

4. Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer, R.A. Baan, provided the report of the EEMS accounts by e-mail. It was presented by Micheline. We were somewhat behind in paying our IAEMS dues, and a payment was made for 3 years, taking advantage of the low dollar. There were also some additional expenses in connection with the vice-Presidential elections. The winter meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Athens. To cover all the expenses, there was some money taken from the savings account. The Membership Fees from the different local Societies are our major source of income. The EEMS 'loan' that was given to the Organizers of the Maastricht Meeting has been returned. The EEMS US\$ account was terminated.

Interim Financial Report 2006 (this covers the first half of 2006):

A major - and very positive! - item is the money that was paid back to the EEMS by the Organizers of the Kos Meeting. Soterios Kyrtopoulos and his team achieved a great financial success and not only returned the EEMS 'loan', but a substantial sum on top of that. For this reason we were able to be generous in giving travel grants to young scientists. The winter meeting of the Executive Committee took place in Prague. Membership Fees for the current year will be collected in the next few months.

5. Report from the Vice-President

There was one nomination for the 2005 Fritz Sobels Award: Prof. Herman Autrup. He was nominated by Lisbeth Knudsen, president of Nord-EMS. His nomination was supported by the whole Award committee.

There were two nominations for the 2005 Young Scientist Award: Dr. Volker Arlt, nominated by Ian Mitchell (UKEMS) and David Phillips and Dr. Tania Schwerdtle, nominated by GUM. Because of his scientific quality, the large number of publications and his highly innovative research, Dr. Arlt was selected to be the winner.

Eugenia suggested to establish a link between EEMS and Eurotox since at local level there is overlap in many countries between these two societies. It was considered not feasible given the structure of the two societies. However, a joint meeting could be considered for the future.

6. Report from the Past-President

Chris Szyfter reported that there was no progress in recruiting new members. Ukraine inquired for the possibility to have a reduced registration/membership fee. It was discussed but considered not appropriate. Fees will stay the same for each country.

7. Report from the President

Micheline suggested to have one session at the annual meeting organized by the former YS awardees. Speakers for this session would be proposed by the local societies, i.e. the winners of the local society's young scientist award. Their participation to this session would not exclude them from winning a YS or YST award. The local society should financially support this person's participation to the meeting. The councillors will be informed on this initiative and will be requested to select the candidates.

Concerning the participation of non-European (developing) country residents to the annual meeting, Eurotox has a special fund for students from these countries. No decision has been made in this regard; will be discussed during following executive committee meeting.

Continuing the trend of last and this year, the EEMS will give more YST awards to students. In 2007, 10 awards will be given, provided that Rob agrees with this: 500 euro + waived registration (depending on local organizer).

For future meetings, the president prefers to have the possibility that posters can be present during the whole meeting, in order to give participants enough time to view them.

Teaching of Genetic Toxicology: no response was received from the persons involved.

YST awards: 8 were awarded; one candidate was withdrawn on the initiative of the presenter. Micheline again pointed out that all persons who receive an award (FS, YS and YST) are expected to write a contribution for the online journal.

For the election of the new vice-president, Chris, as the past-president, will be the chair. From several candidates that will be presented by the local societies, two will be presented. The election should take place in February-March 2007.

8. Report on EEMS journal on website (J. Parry)

Jim has had approaches from a number of publishers who are interested in incorporating the journal into their portfolio of publications. This could be a potential future income for the society. For this to be a success, we need original papers. He realizes that everyone is desperate for high impact papers but still considers that there could be interest for the sake of EEMS. Although the committee does not see a great future for this initiative, they grant Jim

the permission to negotiate with the publishers. Potential editorial board members are: Ilse-Dore Adler, Angelo Carere, Herman Autrup and Chris Szyfter.

9. Meeting with the Local Organizers of 36th EEMS Meeting

There are 450 participants from 40 different countries for this meeting. The organizers acknowledge the positive collaboration with ECNIS. They wish to point out that the sponsoring by ECETOC covered only speakers for their session. They had some difficulties in finding enough sponsors which make that currently the financial situation is not optimal. The collaboration with Czech-In was very good. The abstract submission was very late; at the time of the deadline, only 50% of the speakers' abstracts was received. For the posters, a large area is foreseen and posters can stay up during the whole meeting. Four posters awards (2 from Mutagenesis and 2 from EEMS) will be presented during the conference dinner.

10. Future meetings

37th EEMS Meeting - Basel

The meeting organizers are Hans-Joerg Martus, Lutz Mueller and a local professional event organizer. The venue is a university centre with lecture hall and meeting infrastructure for break out sessions, catering,... and is located in the city centre. Contingents were blocked at local hotels. An insurance will be taken out to cover liability in case of total loss, payment cancellation etc. Wilfried Frieauff will be responsible for contacting potential sponsors and exhibitors. The scientific committee has been tentatively established. The programme topics are still under discussion. With 250 participants, a break-even balance would be obtained.

38th EEMS Meeting - Cavtat

The 38th Annual Meeting will be held in Cavtat (near Dubrovnik), Croatia, from September 21-25, 2008. The theme of the meeting is «Environmental Mutagens and Human Health». The local organizing committee will be formed around the group of Croatia Genetic Society. The scientific program of the meeting will cover the study of the genotoxic effects of threats to human health from chemicals, toxins and radiations in our environment. Molecular and structural studies have also augmented our understanding of many inherited and acquired genetic alterations that predispose individuals to cancer, premature aging and other diseases. The hotel Croatia will serve as the venue for the meeting. Trips to historical and cultural attractions will be organized. For more information, please see: www.hoteli-croatia.hr,

www.visitdubrovnik.hr. More details on the program will be available later. Contact: Prof. J. Franekić Čolić (jfran@pbf.hr) and Prof. V. Garaj-Vrhovac (vgaraj@imi.hr).

Marlies De Boeck, EEMS Secretary