

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY
4 July, 2011
Barcelona - Spain

Officers present:

Eugenia Dogliotti	Past President
David Kirkland	President
Guenter Speit	Vice-President
Paul Fowler	Secretary
Andreas Rothfuss	Incoming Secretary
Leon Mullenders	Incoming Vice-President
Anthony Lynch	Treasurer

Officers absent:

None

Invited:

Keith Brews	Affinity Events
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Councillors present:

Roland Froetschl (GUM)
Melanie Struwe (GUM)
Alberto Izzotti (Italy)
Marlies DeBoek (Belgium)
Jelena Knežević-Vukčević (Serbia)
Elisabeth Lorge (France)
Lisbeth Knudsen (Denmark)

Apologies:

Olga Lavrik (Russia) – represented by Natalia Lebedeva
David Phillips (UK) – represented by Anthony Lynch
Barbara Tudek (Poland) – Represented by Elzbieta Speina
Pavel Rossner (Czech EMS) - represented by Jan Topinka

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting, Oslo, 2010

Error in previous minutes, DNA repair SIG lead was incorrectly stated as being E. Dogliotti, amended to Vasiliki Pletsa. Acceptance of minutes Proposed by Andreas Rothfuss, seconded

by Roland Froetschl. It was noted that minutes were not available far enough in advance, Future minutes to be circulated shortly after each meeting.

3. Changes to council members

Confusion over who was the councillor for Denmark. E. Knudsen agreed to act as councillor for Denmark. Councillors were reminded that they should ideally be members of the executive committee of their representative societies. All present at the meeting (with the exception of those covering for other councillors) confirmed that they were all members of the organizational teams of their regional societies (or at least one of them in case of more than one councillor of a regional society).

4. Lists of members

Membership lists are very difficult to maintain, the old website used to have email capability however the email address (info@EEMS.org) used to be rejected by many spam filters and did not display the number of rejected addresses. The new website does not currently have a built in email facility so all emails are sent from either the President, Secretary or Webmaster's personal email account. Approximately 20% of the listed email addresses are no longer valid and bounce back to the sender causing overloading of email accounts. In future the regional councillors will be responsible for dissemination of EEMS information to their regional members. See item 5 below.

5. Communication to members

See item 4 above.

Regional councillors should have more accurate members lists and addresses of their members and will be expected to keep in regular contact with both the EEMS and their own societies to pass on emails, encourage voting for elected positions and support the society. Councillors will also be responsible for ensuring that accurate membership numbers are communicated to the EEMS secretary and treasurer in order to establish subscription fees.

6. Election of VP

The numbers of votes for the VP elections are very low, reducing further every year, in 2010 there were less than 200 votes for both candidates, many of which were cast at the meeting itself where Francesca Davies was demonstrating the new website. Reasons for this were determined to be a combination of:

- 1) Many people not realising that by being members of their regional societies they are automatically EEMS members.
- 2) Having to log in to the website to vote.

It was pointed out that the VP is not a “lame duck” position as in other situations where the VP has no authority. In the case of EEMS the VP will become the President after 2 years, therefore members are voting for the President Elect. All Councillors were asked to point this out to their membership and encourage them to vote in future VP elections. The EEMS will look into the feasibility of setting up a system for voting by email where voting buttons are added to the top of a society email which could be circulated to all members by regional councillors.

For future meetings, all candidates for VP are to present themselves to society members at the general assembly or during the plenary lectures which are generally better attended.

7. YSTG's changes to rules

Confusion over YSTA (young scientist travel award) winners led to both registration and travel expenses being paid at the Oslo meeting which was expensive for the society and not in proportion with the Fritz Sobels and young scientist award winner prizes. YSTA has since been changed to YSTG (young scientist travel grant). In future the EEMS will give grants of up to €500 to cover travel only. Registration fees would have to be covered by the student or their regional society.

8. Nominations for young scientist session

For the Barcelona meeting all of the young scientist speakers were selected from submitted abstracts. G.S. suggested that the young scientist session at EEMS meetings could be made up of young scientist award winners from the regional societies. Councillors encouraged to nominate students or young scientists to give presentations in the Young Scientists session at future meetings.

9. Young scientist award winner

In 2011 there were two nominations for young scientist award, the awards committee selected Ilse Decordier as this year's winner but noted that she was only just under 35 years old at the time of nomination. G.S. reported that a member of the award committee questioned whether 35 was too old and should younger members be considered for this award. This was not

discussed further, but may be the subject of discussions by the executive committee in the future.

10. *Fritz Sobels award winner*

Only one nomination for the Fritz Sobels award, Micheline Kirsch-Volders, unanimous decision from awards committee.

11. *Treasurers report*

See attached sheet:

A.L. urged councillors to contact the treasurers of their local societies and ask them to pay subscription fees for 2010.

Finances have increased slightly but EEMS only has €35,000 in the bank, a failed summer meeting would effectively bankrupt the society. Future meetings will aim to make a profit in order to build up reserves.

Speakers from academia at the summer meetings will get 2 free nights accommodation, but this is reduced to a single night for speakers from industry.

Accounts from 2010 are currently being audited by the society's accountants.

REPORT of EEMS Accounts, January -- December 2010

Regular ABN-AMRO Account # 55.25.29.877

balance per 01-01-10: Euro 12,789.27

<u>In:</u>	<u>Out:</u>
Subscriptions	Society expenses
GUM 3650	Banking charges 702.53
SFTG 1060	Executive Meetings 3081.36
UKEMS 1450	A Sloan (Accountants) 1994.72
Russian EMS 290	IAEMS Fees 2010 907.95
Hungarian EMS 70	
Croatian EMS 225	
Jing Shi (p.sub) 20	
	Oslo Meeting expenses
Sponsorship	YS Travel Awards (12x) 10413.22
UKEMS 5000	YSA 2405.03
Pfizer 2660.62	Presentation award 1000
Unilever 5000	Poster prizes 200.78
GSK 1176.47	Incidentals 336.35
VCI 3000	
Path Exp 500	Barcelona meeting expenses
Elsevier 3000	Affinity Events 4732.35
Gruenenthal 1000	
	EEMS website
Other income	Pencil marks – web design 6511.11
Royalties 778.16	FD (webmaster) 683.46
Elsevier	
Subscriptions 10050	Other
Mutation Res.	Elsevier Science 8052.67

Outstanding subscriptions 2010: BEMS, NordEMS, Serbian EMS, Dutch EMS, SIMA

balance per 31-12-10: Euro 13,221.99

Deposit Account ABN-AMRO # 60.85.66.012 balance per 01-01-10: Euro 20,917.99

In: Interest: 522.96

balance per 31-12-10: Euro 21,440.95

Anthony M Lynch, Treasurer

Ware, 01-07-2011

12. Newsletters

A late 2011 deadline was proposed for articles, all councillors encouraged to contribute articles from regional societies as well as prompting their members to contribute, especially those receiving YSTGs.

13. Report from Webmaster

New website has been up and running for several months with traffic steadily increasing, councillors asked to encourage their membership to use the website and interact with the forums.

Problems noted with banners on the new site relate to the version of internet explorer being used. Anything earlier than IE7 causes banner issues. It is not possible at this stage to support older versions of internet explorer.

14. Poster Judging

Poster judges arranged in advance of the meeting by GS according to experience and availability.

EEMS to sponsor 2 poster prizes

Mutagenesis to sponsor 2 poster prizes

15. 2012 meeting announcement (Elzbieta Speina)

Meeting to be held in Warsaw, Poland from 16 – 20 September 2012.

Topics to be covered include: .DNA replication and damage tolerance mechanisms, human diseases and DNA repair, new DNA repair proteins, chromatin structure and control of genetic stability, environmental toxicology of nanoparticles and host environment interactions.

16. 2013 meeting proposal

As the next ICEM meeting is to be held in 2013 there will not be a traditional EEMS summer meeting. Instead funds will be made available for young scientist travel grants to Brazil.

Several other proposals were considered including holding smaller workshops or combining an EEMS session with a regional meeting such as UKEMS, but it was agreed that the focus should be on getting as many European scientists as possible to ICEM .

19. AOB

No new business raised