

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY
September 21, 2008
Hotel Croatia, Cavtat, Croatia

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:

Gunnar Brunborg	EEMS 2010 Organizer
Jasna Franekic Èoliae and Verica Garaj	EEMS 2008 Local Organizers

Councillors present:

Jasna Franekic Èoliae and Verica Garaj-Vrhovac (Croatia)
Elisabeth Lorge (France)
Günter Speit (GUM)
Livia Anna (Hungary)
Åse Krøkje (Norway)
Jelena Knežević-Vukčević (Serbia)
Metka Filipic (Slovenia, replacing Bojana Zegura)
Peter Farmer (UK)

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is accepted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last Council Meeting, Basel, 9 Sep, 2007

No correction proposed. The minutes are approved.

3. Report from the Secretary

Newsletter

Version 49 was available in February 2007 and was posted on the website. It contained activity reports from the local societies, including the aftermath of the Basel Meeting, and updates on IWGT, ICH and ILSI-HESI activities. Issue No 50 was only completed in the last

days with contributions by national councillors and Special Interest Group Chairs: it is agreed to upload it onto the website after inclusion of the 2008 Meeting reports.

Website

After its launch in 2007, the website is now working well. During the past year, it was used mainly to advertise meetings and courses of potential interest to EEMS members. A new page was added to provide information about sponsoring opportunities and to acknowledge our sustaining sponsors, Covance and Unilever. Recently, the opportunity to post vacancies and CVs has been reminded by e-mail to all members and a CV was received and posted. ED contacted some senior scientists who promised to prepare a contribution to start a forum discussion. Also, the webpage of the 2009 ICEM Meeting was opened and is now regularly updated. Following the decision taken in the last Executive Meeting of February 27, 2008, a permanent webmaster was appointed to give continuity to this task across turnover of the Secretaries and to fully exploit the website opportunities. Francesca Davies (Covance, UK), contacted by the Vice-President, thankfully accepted this task. The Executive proposes to make the website more and more a real-time tool to spread across all members and outside scientific news, commentaries, etc., in addition to any information to be quickly shared. MKV proposes a new section to include English abstracts of PhD theses. DK asks all presents to send him or Francesca Davies suggestions on how to implement the website and to consult their own research groups and especially the youngest investigators for ideas and proposals. It is agreed that, in this way, most of the content of the newsletter could be better moved to the website and that a Newsletter will be only issued once a year, after the Annual Meeting.

4. Report from the President

Trends of environmental mutagenesis and potential of the Society to interact with and attract members from other research areas

ED starts a discussion about the trend of development of our research area and asks the Councillors about the trend of membership in their local societies. P Farmer reports a positive situation for UKEMS that remains attractive also for scientists working on cutting edge research fields. G Speit reports about the difficulties met when he was President of GUM to try combining meeting of GUM and other German scientific societies, like the DNA Repair Society that apparently prefers to stand on its own, but reports that GUM has a good appeal for new members and participants to its meetings. He also suggests that EEMS meetings should increase their tutorial impact with introductory lectures to the symposia, reviewing the

field for non experts. Metka Filipic (Slovenia) reports about the difficulties to get a large attendance to scientifically broad meetings, but mention the successful experience of an international conference organized in Slovenia every two years on translational oncology. Jasna Franekic Èoliæ (Croatia) and Jelena Knežević-Vukčević (Serbia) report about similar problems of small societies and the latter mention a meeting organized next year by the national Genetic Society with international speakers.

YS Travel Awards

Eleven awards were granted to young scientist from 9 different countries, out of 16 nominations received. In addition, two of the nominees were sponsored by their national Societies. In reply to E Lorge's request of clarification, the President and Treasurer explain that, while the EEMS YSTA consists in a lump sum of 500 Euros plus waiving of registration fee, the amount and modality of financial support by the national societies is left to their own decision. National Societies have also the responsibility to select their sponsored young scientist giving a presentation in the Young Scientist Session of the annual meeting.

5. Report from the Vice-President

DK reports about recent replacements in the Award Committee and summarizes its present composition. Few nominations were received for the Young Scientist Award: eventually Cecilia Lundin (Sweden) was unanimously selected. A second, younger, very good candidate from France was invited to apply again in the future. DK invites all Councillors to submit their nominations: in fact, a good panel of candidates will further increase the prestige of the Award.

DK also reports about the letter recently sent to potential sponsoring companies to present the Society program for sustaining sponsors. So far, Covance and Unilever have decided to become Gold Sponsors, with a commitment of an annual contribution of 5000 Euros. G Speit raises a concern that this kind of support might compete with that given to national Societies, but DK replies that companies expect and can meet multiple requests.

6. Report from the Treasurer

RB provides the report of the EEMS accounts from January to December 2007 and from January to August 2008. For 2007, the membership fees from the different local Societies were the major source of income. A major point was the money that was paid back to the EEMS by the Organizers of the Basel Meeting (approx 17000 Euros); this contributed to

cover the costs of development of the new EEMS website and helped to slightly raise our saving account. Expenses included payment of the auditors and the different EEMS Awards. For 2008, a new source of income will be represented by the sustaining sponsorships from Covance and Unilever. Eleven YS travel awards will be given during the Cavtat meeting. For more details on the finances, see Rob's report.

DK suggests that, like EMS, we should aim at increasing our saving account to eventually meet a target capable of covering costs in case of cancellation of the annual meeting.

7. Guidelines for Annual Meeting Organization

8. Revision of EEMS Rules

ED illustrates the purpose of the documents prepared by the Executive Committee. The first is intended to serve as a guideline for future EEMS meeting organizers. Final aim of the meeting should be the best possible balance between scientific quality, especially in terms of number and origin of speakers, and financial budget. A few changes to the document introduced during the last Executive meeting with respect to the circulated version are highlighted. The possibility for the Society to hire a permanent professional meeting organizer company to assist the Executive and the local organizers is envisaged (similar to EMS) in order to achieve consistency across years and countries; MKV will contact the Belgian-based company managing the European Cancer Society meetings. With a few further changes, the Guidelines are unanimously approved. The final version will be presented to the General Assembly for approval, after which the Secretary will e-mail the document back to all Councillors.

The second document "Annex to EEMS rules" is intended to serve as an Annex to the legally approved EEMS Rules, to update and/or clarify a few issues without the need to go through a complicate legal procedure. With a few changes this document is also approved and will be submitted to the General Assembly as above.

9. Future meetings

EEMS 2010

G Brunborg illustrates the plans for the organization of the 2010 EEMS Meeting. The Meeting will be jointly organized with the Society for Free Radical Research (SFRR) from 12 to 18 September in Oslo. It will start with a SFRR meeting (probably 12-15), that will include an overlapping day with EEMS (probably the 15) focusing on DNA repair, to finish with the proper EEMS Meeting until the 18th. A satellite meeting on Heterocyclic Amines could be held on the 18th. It is expected that a major expense could arise from reimbursement of invited

speakers. G Brunborg asks about the EEMS policy of reimbursement. DK suggests that a different policy could be applied to speakers who are or who are not EEMS members (EMS does not reimburse any participation cost to invited members of the Society). A decision on this option is postponed. Reimbursement of travel should not be a default option, but it could be managed on a case by case basis. The meeting website will be opened within that of EEMS by our website managing company, NewLink, according to the established format (including on-line registration and abstract submission): this could reduce the costs budgeted for the Congress Managing Company.

2009 Florence

During General Assembly →.

9. Activity reports of Councillors

10. Reports from SIG coordinators

During General Assembly →.

11. Any other business

Nihil

Francesca Pacchierotti, EEMS Secretary