

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY

August 23, 2009

Hotel Albani, Firenze, Italy

Officers present:

Eugenia Dogliotti (JD)	President
David Kirkland (DK)	Vice-President
Micheline Kirsch-Volders (MKV)	Past-President
Robert Baan (RB)	Treasurer
Francesca Pacchierotti (FP)	Secretary

Officer excused:

Jim Parry	Executive <i>ex officio</i>
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Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was accepted.

Changes of Society organisation

DK expresses the opinion that a strategy should be envisaged to motivate young members to candidate for future Executives.

MKV suggests to start from winners of the Young Scientist Award, asking them to organise symposia at the annual meeting.

JD proposes that the Executive Committee could be integrated with two younger members to support the Officers in running the Society activities.

JD's suggestion is regarded as an interesting possibility and a discussion is started on the procedures to (s)elect them and on the duration of their term (two years, with the option to be confirmed for a second term ?). DK thinks that three additional members might be better than two (one from the academy, one from the regulatory community, one from industry), and that not all of them should be renewed at the same time, to provide both the necessary change and continuity.

MKV points out that a revision of the Rules might become necessary, to be circulated among the Councillors before voting by the General Assembly. DK suggests the possibility to introduce an electronic voting procedure on these matters.

JD raises the issue of the need of a stronger involvement of the Council in running the Society. DK proposes to organise longer Council meetings prepared by circulating documents to be discussed in advance.

It is agreed that the next year DK and the new Secretary, Paul Fowler, will co-ordinate the process of revision of the Rules.

Following a proposal by DK, it is agreed to change the present sharing of tasks between President and Vice-President that assigns to the Vice-President the responsibility of the Annual Meeting Scientific Program. This type of organisation is not adequate because the newly elected Vice-President gets involved too late in the business. It is agreed that, in the future, the Annual Meeting Scientific Program will be under responsibility of the Vice-President during the second year of his/her period of service, and of the President during the first year of his/her mandate.

In view of the appointment of Affinity Events as the company that will replace any local Congress Organising company from 2011, the need is envisaged to reach a transparent agreement between EEMS and the local organisers on how to share losses and gains. MKV underlines that this might be especially important for Eastern countries, that, in the past, could have made some profit out of meeting organisation.

MKV and DK will contact the current web managing company, NewLink, and Affinity Events to obtain and compare offers for the following services: a) changeable password to access the reserved area of the EEMS website; b) electronic voting procedure on matters other than the Vice-President election; c) electronic abstract submission for the Annual Meeting.

Any other business

The project of a Summer School of Genetic Toxicology to be organized by EEMS starting from a current UK Master Programme is re-proposed by JD and approved.