

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

December 19, 2008

Palazzo dei Congressi, 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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Invited

Silvio De Flora, Chair 10th International Conference on Environmental Mutagens

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting (September 21, 2008) were approved.

3. Organization of the 10th International Conference on Environmental Mutagens (ICEM) – EEMS activities

De Flora and JD (Chair of the ICEM Scientific Program Committee) illustrate the preliminary scientific program. MKV and DK suggest to broaden the topics, also to attract people from outside EM Societies. It is recommended to include a Symposium on ethics. DK points that some issues, that have been recently raised by REACH legislation, like data sharing between companies that at the same time want to maintain competitiveness, are also ethical issues. It is agreed to add a round of parallel symposia right after lunch on August 23, before the “free afternoon”, rather than having evening sessions. DK presents a proposal for the sessions on Regulatory Genetic Toxicology.: a Symposium on the integration of genotoxicity tests into routine toxicity studies and the ILSI-HESI Project on the relevance and

follow up of positive results in *in vitro* genetic toxicity testing; a Symposium on the outcome of the satellite IWGT meeting; a Forum on cytotoxicity measures in the *in vitro* micronucleus test. JD will try to fit this proposal with the rest of the program. It is recommended to integrate in the sessions on risk assessment the US-EPA viewpoint with that of non-US speakers, possibly including Japanese ones.

It is agreed that the **Frits Sobels Award** winner will be one of the plenary speakers, while the **Young Scientist Award** winner will give her/his talk in one of two worldwide Young Scientist Sessions. DK will send a message to the Councillors calling for nominations to Frits Sobels and Young Scientist Awards, with deadline March 31. JD and FP will send a message to EMS Presidents to call for nominations for speakers in the international Young Scientist sessions. It is agreed that poster viewing sessions will be around lunch time. Two **poster prizes** will be granted by EEMS and D. Phillips will be contacted to confirm Mutagenesis-sponsored poster prizes. The other EMS will be also contacted to see whether they are interested in offering additional poster prizes. It is proposed that these prizes are given at the end of IAEMS General Assembly, in the afternoon of Monday August 24. It is agreed that EEMS will offer 10-11 **travel awards** to young participants to ICEM 2009, consisting of 500 Euro plus the registration fee. In case the ICEM Fund Raising Committee is successful in collecting funds to support the participation of young European scientists, these funds could be deposited to the EEMS account for subsequent distribution.

FP, with a representative of the ICEM Organizing Secretariat, OIC Srl, show MKV and DK around the Palazzo dei Congressi and Palaffari premises. The venue is considered well suited for the meeting. It is recommended to offer a relax area and seating places all around.

4. Report from the Secretary

FP announces that the No 50 issue of the Newsletter has been just posted on the website and a message has been sent to all members to let them know about. The message also informs about the decision taken at the last General Assembly to publish only one issue of the Newsletter each year, after the annual meeting, and to move most of its content to the website itself as a better tool to communicate both ways with members and spread news in real-time.

5. Report from the Treasurer

RB informs about the budgetary situation of the 2008 Annual meeting in Cavtat. The budget is close to break-even, without the need to use the annual sustaining sponsorship by Unilever and Covance, if we are able to collect a sponsorship offered by L'Oreal (for which

there still seem to be some technical difficulties) and if we do not accept as eligible cost the budgeted reimbursement of organizers' cost for participating to ICEM 2009. It is indeed agreed not to accept those costs: JD will contact the Cavtat organizers to explain them that EEMS has never supported annual meeting organizers' travel to the following year meeting.

RB also updates the Executive about the situation of the regular and the saving accounts up to (?) December 12, 2008, with a balance of about 10,000 and 20,000 Euro, respectively.

6. *Vice-President election 2009*

MKV confirms the nomination of Gunter Speit for the 2009 Vice-President election by GUM. Presently no other candidate has been nominated, in spite of her requests. She will keep trying to find out a second candidate, as two of them are requested by Statute.

7. *Website*

DK opens a discussion about how to improve the Society website with the help of Francesca Davies, recently appointed as webmaster. The original aims of the website were to inform members and non members about the Society and to host the annual meeting website, with all its content, scientific program, online registration, online abstract submission. To them we should add a new goal: to attract and retain new visitors/members. To this aim, various suggestions are discussed to enrich its content: add more pictures, not covered by copyright, add a page with abstracts of PhD theses in genetic toxicology, add a "news and views" page on European funded projects, with a short description highlighting the genetic toxicology aspects and links to their original website, add a page announcing EU calls for funding, add a page publishing draft regulatory documents open for public comments. It is likely that, in view of the implementation of the website, tasks within the executive should be rearranged. It is agreed to involve Francesca Davies in the website reorganization.

8. *EEMS Summer School*

JD illustrates the project of an EEMS Summer School in Genetic Toxicology. The location could be Erice, Italy, that is the venue of the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture (EMFCSC) with a tradition of hosting scientific courses in various disciplines. Possible organizers would be EEMS, the University of Surrey, EMFCSC and the University of Palermo. As a pilot experience, the School could be integrated into the UKEMS/University of Surrey Education Programme in Genetic Toxicology and offer one of the course modules, according to a proposal by Jim Parry. The University of Palermo would

contribute with lecturers, laboratories (if desired), local liason and possibly some co-financing. As to the financial aspects, EMFCSC could support travel and lodging costs of up to 20 lecturers, plus a fellowship to 1 every 20 students; accommodation costs for students would be around 500 Euro per week, all inclusive. The periodicity could be annual. DK will contact Jim Parry to further discuss with him the possible programme, aiming at fully exploiting one of the already existing modules of the UKEMS/University of Surrey Education Programme in Genetic Toxicology, rather than constructing a new one. Although the first available slot could already be November 2009, it would probably be wiser to plan it not early than spring 2010 because of work load involved in the organization of the 2009 ICEM..

9. *Any other business*

The issue of appointing a professional Congress Organizer company is discussed. MKV will explore a Brussels-based company. DK will continue contacts with Affinity Events, a UK company. Two possible scenarios will be explored: a) the company only deals with organization of the annual meeting, while collecting membership fees remains a Treasurer's task, or b) the company deals with organization of the annual meeting plus collection of subscriptions, while only subscription policy remains a Treasurer's task. The aim is to arrange a meeting with company representatives on the occasion of the next Executive meeting in August 2009 and possible sign a contract next year. It needs to be checked whether the organizers of the 2010 meeting in Oslo have already signed a contract with a local company, or if they would be interested in the services of the newly appointed company.

Francesca Pacchierotti, EEMS Secretary