

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 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:

Jasna Franekic Èoliæ and Verica Garaj	EEMS 2008 Local Organizers
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1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is accepted. For practical reasons, it is decided to firstly address the 2008 Meeting Organizers' report.

2. 2008 Meeting (Organizers' report)

Nina Dumancic of Atlas, official conference organizing agency, illustrates the budget so far. At the moment, a loss of about 15,000 Euros can be expected; however, some savings are foreseen with respect to budgeted costs, as for reimbursement of speakers' travel and accommodation expenses. It was agreed to reimburse to invited speakers a maximum of 500 Euros of travel, upon presentation of relative documents and this should lead to some savings. A request of financial support to Croatia Ministry of Science is still pending. It is decided that the President will reinforce the application with an official letter, especially asking for support to cover registration costs of young scientists (*before the end of the meeting, the contribution by the Ministry of Science is officially confirmed*). Some additional contributions could also be asked to ECETOC (already among the sponsors) and/or to Elsevier.

In general, on the basis of 2008 experience, for the future it is suggested to contain costs by reducing the number of parallel sessions and invited speakers. The alternative of some

increase of registration fees is not recommended in view of the ever shrinking funding in research.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Dubrovnik, 27 Feb, 2008

No correction proposed. The minutes are approved.

4. 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 President proposes to make the website more and more a real-time tool to alert scientific news, commentaries, etc., to all EEMS members and visitors. MKV proposes a new section to include English abstracts of PhD theses. DK suggests to start some sort of brainstorming about how to best use the website among all members (especially the youngest) and to post all suggestions to Francesca Davies to implement them.

A co-evolution of the newsletter and the website can be expected. On this basis, it is agreed that, in the future, the Newsletter will be only issued once a year, after the Annual Meeting,

mainly as a mirror of the event, while most of its present content, especially the pages with scientific reports and updates, will be moved to the website.

4. 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.

5. Guidelines for Annual Meeting Organization

6. Revision of EEMS Rules

The last versions of the two documents are reviewed and further minor changes are introduced. It is underlined that the Guidelines will always be amenable to changes and updating. A final version is agreed upon to be presented to the Council Meeting and General Assembly for approval.

Because of time shortage, the meeting is adjourned and will be continued on September 24, at 14.00.

7. European Journal of Genetic and Molecular Toxicology (J Parry's message of 17/07/08)

Jim Parry's proposal to transform the on-line journal into an open-access journal published by Sage is discussed. Several problems are envisaged: limited place on the market, with competition from other well-established mutagenesis journals; publishing costs to be sustained by authors; need to find an Editor-in-Chief. ED wonders whether it could find its best chances in the publication of large "omics" meta analysis, or method/protocol reports. In the end, after a thorough discussion, the chance of success is thought to be narrow and it is decided not to pursue Parry's proposal and discontinue the publication of the on-line journal.

At the same time, the possibility to launch a European FORUM on Genetic and Molecular Toxicology through the Society website is envisaged. It could contain abstracts of PhD theses, extended abstracts of EEMS annual meeting poster winners, awardees' presentations, scientific news and views, etc. It is decided to check with members the feasibility to publish also the whole poster content, authors' consent provided.

As regard some hints on how to prepare a good poster to enter the contest, G Brunborg might be asked to start an internet forum on this point with his own ideas.

8. President's proposal on how to increase EEMS tutorial role and activities

JD reports about her contacts with the International School of Erice in Sicily (Italy) regarding the possibility to host a EEMS Summer School of environmental mutagenesis. According to its tradition, the School would cover speakers' travel and accommodation costs and subsidize students' participation costs. Lessons could be held on the school premises, while practical training could be organized at the laboratories of Palermo University. Main role of EEMS would be to appoint the teachers and define the programs. Main goal would be to reinforce the tutorial role of the Society, but a financial revenue could be expected by charging some registration fee. It is decided to further detail the initiative and draft a financial budget. It is also decided to build upon the experience of the UKEMS Master in Genetic Toxicology organized by Jim Parry and to contact him for advise. The possibility is envisaged to host a module of that Course out of UK, and to open the class to all European students

9. Report from the Past-President: Next Vice-President Election

The criteria for the nomination of the two candidates for the next year Vice-President Election are discussed, based on country, scientific field, past services. An exploratory mandate is given to the Past-President, MKV.

10. Any other business

RB points out that the Society trustees, namely P Lohman, B Brydges and B Matter, after a long term of service might be replaced. The names of Ilse-Dore Adler, Angelo Carere and Bert Van Zeeland are suggested and RB will contact them and ask if they are willing to serve in this role.

Francesca Pacchierotti, EEMS Secretary