

EUROPEAN MICROSCOPY SOCIETY



Minutes of the GENERAL COUNCIL Meeting of EMS

held at the EMS congress EMC 2008 in Aachen (Wednesday, September 3, 2008, Hasselt Room)

According to the Constitution, a *General Council* consists of representatives of the National microscopy societies that have adopted (*partial*) *en-bloc* membership of EMS. Those societies that have less than 300 paying EMS members will have one representative with one vote. Societies with over 300 paying EMS members will have two representatives, each with one vote. Only one society per country can send representatives to the *General Council*. When two societies are active in one country, the society with the largest EMS membership will be represented at the *General Council*, unless a written document signed by all parties involved is produced at the *General Council* indicating that the right has been passed on to a smaller society. Two representatives of ECMA (European Corporate Member Assembly) have voting rights in the *General Council*. For details in the Constitution, see the EMS website: <http://www.euremicsoc.org> .

Summary of the rules: No meeting of the *General Council* shall have the power to make valid decisions unless more than 50% of all societies that decided for (*partial*) *en-bloc* membership of EMS are represented. In case of insufficient participation, decisions are postponed until the next meeting of the *General Assembly* or can be put-up for electronic voting by the EMS board. The *General Council* will be chaired by the President of EMS. Decisions of the *General Council* are taken by a simple majority of votes (>50%; in the event of an equal division of votes, the chairman shall make the final decision).

- Present: Sousan Abolhassani (SSOM), Ueli Aebi (President), Anton-Jan Bons (BVM/SBM), Rik Brydson (Board member), Philippe A. Buffat (SFμ), Jose Carrascosa (Board member), Miran Ceh (SDM), Marie Cheynet (Board member), Aleksandra Czyrska-Filemonowicz (PTMi), Markus Dürrenberger (SSOM), Elisabetta Falcieri (SISM), Pavel Hozak (Board member), Eija Jokitalo (SCANDEM), Wayne D. Kaplan (ISM), Helmut Kohl (DGE), Aleksandra Korac (SSM), Joachim Mayer (Board member), Amelia Montone (SISM), Margit Pavelka (ASEM), Peter J. Peters (NVvM), Melek Ozturk (TEMD), Mark Rainforth (RMS), Marc Schmutz (SFμ), Dominique (Nick) Schryvers (Secretary), Raija Sormunen (SCANDEM), Debbie Stokes (RMS), Manuel Vieira (SPMicros), Marco Vittorio-Antisari (Board member),

Excused: Peter Hawkes (Board member), Bob Hertsens (ECMA representative)

Start of the meeting: 12:40

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda of the *General Council*

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After a short welcome by the President, thereby also congratulating the organizers of EMC 2008 for their terrific job, the following points are changed and added to the agenda:

- 1.1 Items 2 and 3 of the earlier distributed agenda are swapped in order to allow for the acceptance of the new societies before deciding about the venue of EMC 2012
- 1.2 In item 5 a discussion point on potential European bids for IMC 2014 is added
- 1.3 In item 5 a discussion point on issue 11 of the *GA* concerning the changes of the Constitution is added
- 1.4
2. Acceptance of new *en-bloc* member societies

According to the Constitution, acceptance of new member societies resides with the *General Council*. As several national or regional societies have expressed interest in becoming member societies of *EMS* since *EMC* 2004, the Executive Board has accepted their membership in the interest of the society, following rule VII.9 of the Statutes. The General Council is now asked to acknowledge this decision. The respective societies are:

Royal Microscopical Society (*RMS*, UK): membership requested in 2005
Nordic Society (*SCANDEM*): membership requested in 2006
Portuguese Society (*SPMicros*): membership requested in 2007

Decision: *The General Council accepts the full membership of the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS, UK), the Nordic Society (SCANDEM), and the Portuguese Society (SPMicros).*

3. Decision on the venue of *EMC* 2012 (comprehensive documentation package provided by the proposers)

By the deadline of January 31, 2008, one formal application by the *RMS* and *EMAG* for the organization of *EMC* 2012 in London was submitted to the *EMS* Executive Board. After some questions for extra information and a visit of the *EMS* Secretary to the 2008 Microscience meeting at the ExCel site, the following proposals are now available for vote:

Proposal 1: meeting dates June 24 – 29, 2012

Proposal 2: meeting dates March 25 – 30, 2012 (pre-Easter)

Proposal 3: meeting dates September 16 – 21, 2012

The organizers provided a comprehensive package with more information on the venue and organization.

The Chair of the bid committee, Mark Rainforth, gave a short presentation on the most relevant issues including the site, programme, exhibition, budget, proposed dates, etc. The following questions were raised by the members of the *General Council*:

- The budget is substantially higher than for *EMC* 2008 (over 900 K€ compared to 640 K€). Although all prices are projected for 2012 and include a 3% annual

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increase, the *General Council* still feels that this should be checked. A break-even is anticipated at 850 paying delegates; maybe, this number should be increased while lowering the registration fee.

- As far as we can tell, none of the proposed dates coincide with any of the major holiday periods.
- The commercial exhibition is slightly larger than at *EMC 2008* (by about 200m² and may be further expanded if needed). It will be investigated whether free entrance to the commercial exhibition (as at *Microscience*) should be considered.
- Special care needs to be taken in order to reduce the surrounding noise in the lecture theaters. This problem may be solved in part by separating the lecture theater area from the commercial exhibition area.

Overall, the delegates are very pleased with the bid and move on with the vote on the proposed dates (these take into account reserved dates for the Olympic and Para-olympic games). The result of the vote is as follows:

Proposal 1: meeting dates June 24 – 29, 2012	6 votes
Proposal 2: meeting dates March 25 – 30, 2012 (pre-Easter)	2 votes
Proposal 3: meeting dates September 16 – 21, 2012	18 votes

Decision: *The General Council decides that the 15th European Microscopy Congress, EMC 2012, will be organized by the RMS and EMAG at ExCel in London, September 16 – 21, 2012. The clear-cut result emerging from the vote on the dates most likely ensures strong attendance of EMC 2012.*

The General Council thanks the organizers once more for their strong and very professional proposal, and wishes them all the best in their endeavor to come up with a most attractive and successful European Microscopy Congress in 2012.

4. Determination of the *EMS* annual membership fee for the coming year(s)

According to the Constitution determination of the annual membership fee resides with the General Council. At present, the annual membership fee amounts to 25 € for individual membership and 5 € for membership via (*partial*) *en-bloc* society membership. In previous years there has been no need for any changes in the membership fee. In view of the healthy financial situation of *EMS* (see documents of the General Assembly), the following decision is taken by the General Council:

Decision: *The General Council decides to retain the membership fees at 25 € for individual membership and 5 € for membership via (partial) en-bloc society membership*

5. Any further matter to be discussed

5.1. *IMC 2014*: during the General Council meeting of *IFSM* at *IMC16* in Sapporo, three European bids were presented for *IMC 2010*. During the voting process it was clear

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that this was not a very efficient way if we want to organize *IMC 2014* in Europe. The bid for *IMC 2014* will have to be presented in Rio during *IMC 2010* with a deadline for submitting the bid 3 months before *IMC 2010* (i.e., end of May 2010). The suggestion of the Executive Board of EMS is to look for potential European candidates during the coming year and then go through a preliminary selection round within Europe (e.g., during the *EMS Extension 2009* in Graz). Ideally, the selected bid would then become the European bid to be supported by the *EMS* and the European delegates at the IFSM Council meeting voting in Rio.

Already several delegates expressed their interest in proposing a bid for *IMC 2014*, including the Swiss, Czech and also the Portuguese and Turkish representatives. It was also recognized that this opens perspectives for potential candidates for future *EMC's* after *EMC 2012*.

The *EMS* Executive Board will set up a timeline in the coming months (probably in autumn 2008) to assure that the interested national societies can prepare their first documentation packages in time.

5.2. Changes of the Constitution during the *EMS* GA

During the General Assembly on Thursday, September 4th, the issue of the partial en-bloc society membership (point 11) will be raised by the *EMS* Executive Board. In this context, the President of the *DGE* (*German Society for Electron Microscopy*) points out that if *EMS* opts for the first of the two suggested paragraphs of III.3 of the Constitution, the *DGE* would have a legal problem, since their Board cannot decide for its members to become members of another society. This matter has already been extensively discussed between the *EMS* President & Secretary and past & present board members and presidents of the *DGE* in preparation of *EMC 2008* in Aachen, unfortunately, without reaching a decision.

The *EMS* Executive Board stresses two essential points: (1) to retain the individual membership and (2) to remove the option of *partial* en-bloc society membership so that only one type of society membership remains.

In practice, however, it turns out that in some societies their members are allowed to remove their name from the local membership list forwarded to *EMS* by this society, which could be called a passive way of creating the *EMS* membership list. This is in fact what *EMS* would like to incorporate in the Constitution, by including phrases like "subject to national and European privacy legislation". However, in the *DGE* its members have to actively indicate their willingness to become an *EMS* member, a situation which automatically results in a smaller number of *EMS* members within the *DGE*.

Obviously, the main problem then arises when the membership fee is negotiated between the *DGE* and the *EMS*: a possible procedure would be to request *EMS* membership payments for all *EMS* enlisted members. This would, however, imply that most societies pay for their (quasi) complete member list while one or two societies (for example, the *DGE*) only pay for about 1/3 of their members while also being called "en-bloc". Of course, only the effective *EMS* listed members of the latter

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societies are eligible for *EMS* benefits such as scholarships, sponsorship, etc. Since such a society has probably less than 300 *EMS* members, it can only have one representative in the General Council. The only alternative for these societies would be to pay to EMS a membership fee for all of its members, but as said, this would raise problems in certain countries.

While no conclusion is reached by the General Council, both alternatives will clearly be explained during the General Assembly, so that the EMS members present will be able to make their proper choice.

6. The General Council meeting is closed by the *EMS* President at 14:10.

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EMS President

Nick Schryvers
EMS Secretary

President EMS

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