

EUROPEAN MICROSCOPY SOCIETY



Minutes of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of EMS

held at the EMS congress EMC 2008 in Aachen (Thursday, September 4, 2008, Berlin Room)

According to the Constitution, a General Assembly of all individual EMS members will be held at least once a year. The EMS is a European Society with over 5.000 individual members. It is important that EMS members gather, discuss and determine the framework in which they communicate and cooperate. For details on the Constitution, see the EMS website: <http://www.euremicsoc.org>.

Summary of the rules: All paid-up EMS members, including members of the Executive Board, have one vote. A quorum of 50 members is needed. The General Assembly will be chaired by the President of EMS. Decisions of the General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of votes (except for changes of the statutes). Two representatives of ECMA (European Corporate Member Assembly) have voting rights in the General Assembly.

Present: at least 76 members are counted so the quorum of the meeting is reached. The list of names is given below.

Start of the meeting: 12.45

1. After a short welcome of the President, meanwhile congratulating the organizers of EMC 2008 on a job well-done, the agenda of the General Assembly *is confirmed*
2. The minutes of the 2007 General Assembly held during the EMS extension "8th Multinational Congress on Microscopy" in Prague (Wednesday, June 20, 2007) *are approved* (GA_PD_2_1)
3. The report of the President, describing the activities of the Executive Board and the EMS in the period Jun. 2007 – Aug. 2008 *is approved*. Meanwhile the vote of the General Council on Wednesday September 3 for the next venue of EMC 2012 is announced: EMC 2012 will be organized by the RMS and EMAG in London from 16 till 21 September 2012 at the ExCell site (GA_PD_3_1)
4. The status of the EMS Extension 2009 and EMS Sponsored Events in 2008 is reported by the Secretary (GA_PD_4_1). The President of MC 2009 gives a short announcement of the meeting in Graz, Austria, from August 30 till September 3, 2009, stressing their extra support of young researchers.
5. The budget of the years 2007 (GA_PD_5_1), 2008 (GA_PD_6_1) and 2009 (GA_PD_7_1) is presented by the Secretary. Following the figures in the accounts the financial situation of the society is clearly healthy.
6. Report of the financial auditors over the period 2004 – 2008: due the missing of official banking notes as a result of a sudden and serious illness of the Treasurer, the auditors were unable to conclude an official auditing report. The Executive Board, in close collaboration with the present Treasurer, has decided to look for a new candidate for the important job of EMS Treasurer and for practical reasons to start looking for

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someone in The Netherlands (the present Treasurer is also located in The Netherlands). It is suggested that the auditing report for the 2004-2008 period will take place during the coming year and presented at the GA during the EMS Extension of 2009, based on the proper documents provided by the new Treasurer. It is also suggested that in the new Board a second person should have access and signature rights to the banking material. *These two suggestions are accepted by the Assembly.*

7. According to rule VIII.7 of the constitution the auditors can remain in office for a total period of 8 years, i.e. two terms. The present auditors, Prof. Peter Karnthaler and Prof. Werner Mader have accepted to remain financial auditors for the next 4 years and the GA is asked to confirm their nomination as such. *The Assembly nominates Prof. Peter Karnthaler and Prof. Werner Mader as financial auditors of EMS for the period 2008 - 2012.*
8. The President gives a short overview of the prospect on EMS activities for the coming year(s) (GA_PD_10_1). One of the most important issues will be the preparation of a European bid for IMC 2014, a proposal which will have to be defended in Rio in 2010. At the general Council it was decided that the Executive Board will set-up a timeline for some kind of pre-selection within Europe so that one European venue can fully be supported by EMS and by all European delegates at the IFSM meeting in Rio.
9. Changes to the constitution (GA_PD_11_1):
 - 9.1. the President shortly explains the first part of the requested changes, the one concerning the election and constitution of the Executive Board. In view of the large increase in the number of members of EMS during the previous years plus the fact that the nationality of the organizers of the EMC meetings cannot be chosen and that ECMA should have freedom in choosing their representative without influencing an EMS decision, the new paragraphs are now proposed to become

VII.1. Members of the Executive Board are elected in the following functions:

- a. president
 - b. secretary
 - c. treasurer
 - d. a representative of the European Corporate Member Assembly (ECMA).
 - e. members
- The following members are members ex-officio
- f. past-president
 - g. organizer of the next EMC
 - h. organizer of the last EMC

VII.6. No more than two members of the Executive Board shall come from the same country, excluding the organizers of the next and last EMC and the ECMA representative, nor shall any one person be elected into two offices simultaneously. President, Secretary and Treasurer should be residents of different countries.

VII.7. The Executive Board should not contain more than fourteen members.

A vote is taken by raising hands and this change in the constitution is accepted by a clear 2/3 majority.

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9.2. the second part deals with the partial en-bloc membership: since the *partial* concept has always been presented as an exception, it is now suggested to remove this option from the constitution, while retaining the individual character of membership and decision taking. This point was already raised before in the General Council where it was made clear that the DGE (German society) would have a legal problem with one of the options since their Board cannot decide for the members to become member of another society. The main problem lies in the enumeration of the membership fee: a possible procedure is to request EMS membership payments for all EMS enlisted members. This would, however, imply that most societies pay for their (quasi) complete list while one or two pay for about 1/3 of their membership and are also called “en-bloc”. Of course, only the real EMS listed members of the latter are eligible for EMS benefits such as scholarships, sponsorship, etc., and as such a society has probably less than 300 members it only has one representative in the Council, etc. The only alternative is to pay EMS for the full local membership list, but as said, this raises problems in certain countries.

After an interesting discussion where different points of view are presented, including the possibility to use some of the funds of the EMS to have this investigated by a legal office, a first vote is taken on the *second* alternative as was listed in the preparative document (plus some minor editorial changes to the first paragraph), i.e., to replace item III.3 by the following, immediately providing the necessary basis for national and regional societies to apply local privacy legislation:

III.3. The EMS will encourage *en-bloc* membership of national or regional societies for microscopy, whereby EMS enlisted members of a national or regional society, subject to national and European privacy legislation, are considered individual members of EMS.

National or regional societies cooperate with EMS by paying to EMS an annual membership fee that corresponds to the number of EMS enlisted society members (i.e. 5 Euro x number of EMS enlisted society members). They will also provide EMS with an electronic list of names and addresses of their EMS enlisted members, subject to restrictions imposed by national and European privacy legislation. *En-bloc* EMS membership is not restricted to one society per country, but only one society per country can be represented at the General Council (see VI.2 of this constitution.).

A vote is taken by raising hands and this combination was immediately accepted by a clear 2/3 majority (near unanimous) so it seems that all members agree to this procedure.

In the remainders of the Statutes and By-laws all references to the “partial” en-bloc system will also be removed.

10. Election of the new Executive Board for the period EMC 2008 – EMC 2012: The Executive Board of EMS believes that in the past few years much positive momentum has been created and wishes to continue along these lines. In this spirit and based on proposals presented to the present Executive Board and the rules set in the constitution and taking into account a topical (Physics & Materials Sciences (PMS); Life Sciences (LS)) and geographical spread, the Board presents the following suggestion

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for the new Executive Board for the next period (EMC 2008 – EMC 2012) to be elected by the GA.

- a. president: Paul Midgley (Cambridge, UK, PMS)
- b. *past-president: Ueli Aebi (Basel, Switzerland, LS)*
- c. secretary: Dominique (Nick) Schryvers (Antwerp, Belgium, PMS)
- d. treasurer: to be decided*
- e. *organizer of the next EMC: to be decided*
- f. *organizer of the last EMC: Joachim Mayer (Aachen, Germany, PMS)*
- g. *a representative of the European Corporate Member Assembly (ECMA): Robert (Bob) Hertsens*
- h. members
 - Serap Arbak (Istanbul, Turkey, LS)
 - Rik Brydson (Leeds, UK, PMS)
 - Marie Cheynet (Grenoble, France, PMS)
 - Aleksandra Czysrska-Filemonowicz (Krakow, Poland, PMS)
 - Pavel Hozak (Prague, Czech Republic, LS)
 - Raija Sormunen (Oulu, Finland, LS)
 - Marco Vittorio-Antisari (Rome, Italy, PMS)

The names in *italic* are not up for election for various obvious reasons. Short CV's for all other members have been available on-line. The members shortly present themselves to the Assembly. *The entire new Executive Board is elected unanimously* after which the new President, Paul Midgley, states that he is very pleased with this great honour and is looking forward to the next 4 years.

(* in the coming weeks the Board will look for a new Treasurer who will be presented to the GA for election during the 2009 EMS Extension, cf. point 6).

11. Any further matter to be discussed:

One point is raised by A. Howie: "in keeping with the 'other microscopies', by now most EM societies - including EUREM which migrated to EMS - have by now dropped the word 'electron' in their name to at least formally indicate the broadening of their microscopy horizon. There are, however, a few exceptions such as, for example, the German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE), the Austrian Society for Electron Microscopy (ASEM) and the Croatian Society for Electron Microscopy. Similarly, most meetings and conferences - including EMC - centered about electron microscopy have dropped the word 'electron' to reflect the 'in principle' inclusion/ interest in the 'other microscopies'.

In any case, I think the organizers and, in particular, the Program Committee of the EMC 2008 in Aachen have made a significant effort to make the 'other microscopies' an integral part of the conference program both in the technical as well as the applications sessions. As you are probably aware, for a significant part of the microscopy community the 'other microscopies' - in particular, all the light microscopy modalities - are the major turf of the life scientists and to a lesser extent the materials scientists. In my opinion, that's where the present dilemma resides: While on paper we are all microscopists, mentally and also practically many microscopy societies including

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EMS are still dominated by electron microscopists. I think, this 'dilemma' is also documented by the fact that abstract- and registration-wise EMC 2008 in Aachen is still dominated by electron microscopy/ microscopists.

What I as a trained physicist and practicing structural biologist would like to witness in the future is a stronger interest/ participation of the life science community in microscopy meetings and conferences such as, for example, EMC. "

The point is taken home by the future organizers of EMC 2012, who have a strong track record in combining optical and electron microscopies, so we are looking forward to an even further integration of different microscopy techniques in our EMC series.

12. Closing of the meeting at 14.15

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EMS President

Nick Schryvers
EMS Secretary

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Attendants at General Assembly on 4 September 2008: EMC 2008 Aachen

Chair: Aebi Ueli

Secretary: Schryvers Dominique (Nick)

Austrian Society for Electron Microscopy (ASEM)

- Gammer Christoph
- Geist David
- Lutz-Meindl Ursula
- Mangler Clemens
- Peterlechner Martin
- Richter Susanne

Belgian Society for Microscopy (BVM/SBM)

- Bons Anton-Jan
- Tirry Wim

Croatian Microscopy Society (CSM)

- Milat Ognjen
- Tonejc Anđelka

Czechoslovak Microscopy Society (CSMS)

- Pavel Hozak
- Cernavsky Alexander
- Kralova Daniela
- Kubinova Lucie
- Schauer Petr
- Slouf Miroslav

German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE)

- Bihl Johannes
- Biskupek Johannes
- Boller Klaus
- Boxler-Baldoma Carmen
- Dietrich Dagmar
- Felsmann Michael
- Gemming Thomas
- Hesse Dietrich
- Jaeger Wolfgang

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- Krzyzanek Vladislav
- Laue Michael
- Lehmann Christian
- Lichte Hannes
- Luysberg Martina
- Mader Werner
- Mayer Joachim
- Rachel Reinhard
- Reichelt Rudolf
- Rellinghaus Bernd
- Scheerschmidt Kurt
- Schmid Herbert K.
- Sigle Wilfried
- Thomas Juergen
- Van Aken Peter
- Zweck Josef

Electron Microscopy and Analysis Group

- Brydson Rik
- Midgley Paul

Israel Society for Microscopy (ISM)

- Grunbaum Enrique

Israel Society for Microscopy (ISM)

- Volbert B.

Polish Society for Microscopy (PTMi)

- Czyska-Filemonowicz Aleksandra

Nordic Microscopy Society (SCANDEM)

- Olsson Eva
- Sormunen Raija

Royal Microscopical Society (RMS)

- Hetherington Crispin
- Howie Archie

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- Hutchison John
- Rainforth Mark
- Stokes Debbie

French Microscopy Society (SF μ)

- Buffat Philippe-André
- Cheynet Marie-Claude
- Klein Holger

Slovene Society for Microscopy (SDM)

- Miran Ceh

Italian Society of Microscopical Sciences (SISM)

- Battistelli Michela
- Di Bella Maria Antonietta
- Falcieri Elisabetta
- Vittori Antisari Marco

Spanish Society for Microscopy (SME)

- Lopez Carrascosa Jose
- Peiro Martinez Francisca

Serbian Society for Microscopy (SSM)

- Grbovic Novakovic Jasmina
- Korac Aleksandra

Swiss Society for Optics and Microscopy (SSOM)

- Abolhassani-Dadras Sousan:
- Schwarz Heinz:
- Stierhof York-Dieter
- Walther Paul

Turkish Society for Electron Microscopy (TEMD)

- Arbak Serap
- Daglioglu Suzan
- Ozturk Melek
- Yilmazer Selma

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