

European Astronomical Society

17th Council Meeting

Granada, Monday, September 13, 2004
Draft Minutes

Attendance:

A) Council members:

- Michel Dennefeld (Councillor & French Astronomical Society)
- Joachim Krautter (Secretary & Astronomische Gesellschaft)
- Birgitta Nordstroem (Treasurer)
- Magda Stavinschi (Councillor & Romanian Astronomical Society)

B) Representatives of Affiliated Societies

- Nick Kylafis (Hellenic Astronomical Society)
- Laurits Leedjärd (Estonian Astronomical Society)
- Ivo Micek (Czech Astronomical Society)
- Areg Mickaelian (Armenian Astronomical Society)
- Eduard Salvador-Solé (Spanish Astronomical Society)
- Sabine Schindler (ÖGAA)
- Iryna Varilova (Ukranian Astronomical Society)

C) Guests

- Alvaro Gimenez (ESA)
- Mary Kontizas (Newsletter editor)
- Martine Logossou (EAS executive secretary)
- J.P. Swings (Liege, TOP 17)
- Yaroslav Yatskiv (UAA, NASU, Ukraine)

Since the President of EAS, Harvey Butcher, and the two vice-presidents were not able to attend the Council meeting, the meeting was chaired by the secretary Joachim Krautter who opened the meeting at 17^h05^m

1) **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2) **Adoption of the Minutes from the 16th EAS Council Meeting, Budapest 2003**

The minutes were adopted without changes.

3) **Report by the President**

Since the President H. Butcher was not able to attend, the secretary J. Krautter gave a short report on the activities of Council during the past year. He mentioned that the document on National Priorities had been distributed to all members. Council hopes that this will be an important step to increase EAS's visibility. He also mentioned the Job market which had been for the first time successfully held at Jenam2003 in Budapest. EAS has changed its administrative office in Geneva, its now located at the Integral Science Center, the new executive secretary is Martine Logossou. EAS had been also active in supporting the Astronomical Institute in Basel which had been in the danger of being closed down. Several other activities will be discussed later during this meeting.

B. Nordström stressed the importance that Job opportunities should be sent to EAS.

4) **Report by the Treasurer**

The treasurer Birgitta Nordstroem presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as per 31 December 2003 (see appendix). The total income was with 33 589 SFr. slightly higher than the expenses of 30 883 SFr. She emphasized that the activity level was not very high due to the low income. She strongly recommended that the income level should be raised. It was realised that the reserves are with 58 000 SFr. relatively high.

B. Nordström presented the *EAS Budget 2005*.

A short discussion arose concerning the EAS Newsletter. It was recommended to ask the EAS members whether they still wanted to have the printed version of the Newsletter or whether an electronic version would be sufficient.

5) **Report by the Secretary**

See TOP 3

6) **State of Membership**

B. Nordström said that the membership list of western countries was cleared. However there are still problems with the eastern countries. Last year personal letters were sent out, this year too. She explained that those who don't pay will receive a last letter that they will be excluded which will give them a last chance. Those who do not pay immediately will be taken out from the membership and distribution lists.

7) **Membership Fees**

The membership fees will remain unchanged.

8) **Nonpaying Members**

See TOP 6.

9) **EAS Secretariat**

The changes in the EAS secretariat were shortly described again (see TOP 3).

10) **National Priorities Initiative**

It was mentioned that Russia and Romania were not included, of Czechia and old document had been used. Council will discuss this matter and find an appropriate solution.

11) **Homepage and Mailing list**

The webpage manager Michel Dennefeld asked for more input from the members. The mailing list of EAS was discussed.

12) **Newsletter**

Council discussed the suggestion by Paul Murdin to combine RAS and EAS Newsletter. It was the general opinion that EAS should keep its own Newsletter in order to keep its identity.

13) **Joint Divisions EAS/EPS**

Nobody from the JAD was present.

14) **Washington Charter**

B. Nordström presented the Washington. There was no objection that EAS should join.

15) **Educational Use of Telescopes**

M. Dennefeld presented that this initiative aims at opening professional telescopes for one or two nights a year and invite classes with teachers to carry out programmes. This was discussed at Opticon, various directors of observatories would be willing to open 2-4m class telescopes to this purpose. ESO will play a prominent role. It was agreed that EAS should try to play a role too; M. Dennefeld will contact Richard West and Opticon

16) **Future Activities of EAS**

Y. Yatskiv asked EAS to support activities to invite everybody to visit Ukrainia for the total solar eclipse which will take place on March 29, 2006. The main spot of activities will be the Ukrainian-Russian observatory. Y. Yatskiv will write a paper which will be distributed by EAS.

E. Salvador-Solé asked EAS to protest against the lightning of the sky as a celebration event to celebrate the year of physics. Council agreed to do so, however, more information was needed. E. Salvador-Solé will provide information on webpage.

17) Next General and Council Meeting

J.P. Swings invited EAS to hold JENAM2005 from July 4-8, 2005, in Liege. The Council member responsible for this meeting will be M. dennefeld in 2004, for 2005 A. Gimenez will take over.

On suggestion of B. Nordström Council will propose to the organizers to waive the registration fee for EAS Council members.

At the IAU 2006 in Prague a special EAS day will be held with the EAS General Assembly and a Job Market. No scientific sessions will be held. For the Job Market AAS should be approached in order to hold a joint event. M. Dennefeld suggested a formal presentation on astronomy in Europe and in the USA. The Czech organizers (Jan Palous) and IAU should be approached as soon as possible. It was agreed that EAS needs half a day for this event. The president should be reminded to act quickly.

Concerning an award B. Nordström urged Council members to come up with ideas for a prize and for sponsors.

18) Any Other Business

B. Nordström asked about the situation in countries without professional astronomical societies. In Denmark an astronomy section within the Danish Physical Society will be formed. Council agreed that such a society could be an Affiliated Society.

M. Dennefeld had received a phonecall from the Journal of the Parliament in Strassburg (Official Journal of the parliament). EAS could get space in their Journal. The problem is that it is expensive (full page 3000.- Eu). M. Dennefeld was of the opinion that that could be bargained. No decision was taken.

J. Krautter thanked the leaving Council members M. Stavinschi, A. Chjerepaschchuk, M. Perryman, and P. Shaver for their work for the society.

The chairman closed the meeting at 19^h07^m