

# European Astronomical Society

## 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Yerevan, Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 16h00

### Draft minutes

Attendance: The list of participants is available from the signature sheet distributed to all attendants

The meeting was opened by the President at 16h08

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was distributed. Only minor modifications were proposed to the agenda which are reflected in the order in which the items were dealt with below. The Agenda was adopted.

#### 2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 19th EAS Council Meeting, Prague, 2006

The minutes of the Prague Council meeting were distributed. They had already been approved at the Poitiers meeting.

#### 3. Report by the President

The President presented his report reminding that in addition to this being his first year as President, 5 new council members were elected last year as well (Th. Courvoisier as Vice-President, A. Dutrey as Treasurer, E. Brinks as Secretary, A. Stepanov and E. Oliva as Councillors).

The president extended thanks to the LOC in Armenia, in particular to Areg Mickaelian, for successfully organising the JENAM in Armenia. Some disappointment was expressed as attendance was lower than expected, especially from Russia. As a consequence, EAS Council has to consider ways to improve JENAMs in the coming years.

Council members attended the ASTRONET meeting which was held in Poitiers in January 2007 and took advantage of the opportunity to hold a meeting there.

There is one new affiliated society since last year, namely the Turkish Astronomical Society, which is warmly welcomed.

EAS Council perceives the need to establish a well functioning relation between the EAS and the National Societies, and having a discussion on this topic is the purpose of the meeting in January (item 10 of the Agenda refers).

The promised inventory of jobs and job prospects hasn't made as much progress as

was hoped for. Information regarding the job situation is missing from several countries; a first edition will be prepared to stimulate interest in this effort.

The Geneva secretariat is working very well, thanks to the secretary Martine Logossou and her supervisor Thierry.

A change in the Constitution is required to allow institutional members to join. This will be done during the coming year, requiring a vote by the members. Council will take this opportunity to undertake a critical review of the Constitution and Bye-Laws at the same time.

The EAS participates in RadioNet and OPTICON meetings as observer. The EAS regrets not to be involved in ASTRONET, an ambitious project driven by funding agencies, as the EAS is the only society representing astronomers across Europe. Attempts will be made to try to change this.

The EAS has decided to create an EAS prize, which will be discussed later in the meeting (agenda item 11 refers).

#### **4. Report by the Secretary**

Read by the President since the secretary was unable to attend.

#### **5. Report by the Treasurer**

The Treasurer A. Dutrey presented the report on behalf of B. Nordstrom for 2006 with a total income of 18.800 euros and expenses for 14500 euros leading to a net benefit of 4300 euros. The assets amount to 71.500 euros.

She also read the audit report acknowledging that previous recommendations have been taken into account.

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2008 with an income of 25.500 euros explaining all income as well as the planned expenditure for the same amount.

Finally a presentation was made of the economical development over 2002-2006. This prompted a discussion about using saving accounts for the capital or even more aggressive investments. The report, the budget and the economical development are given in Appendix 1 & 2.

There is a clear need to increase income, for example by means of institutional members (agencies or industries).

The Treasurer finally encouraged affiliated societies to pay by bank transfer (or credit card) in Euros.

## **6. State of Membership**

Presented by the Treasurer. The membership has been stagnant at too low a number, especially given the large number of astronomers from big western countries who as yet have to join. The EAS will look at ways to recruit new members.

The President expressed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer in this, her first year.

## **7. Membership Fee**

Presented by the Treasurer. Ordinary membership fee: 40 euros; junior membership fee: 20 euros (and there is a provision for special treatment of some countries). The fees remain unchanged.

## **8. The EAS WWW Homepage and Mailing List**

The new EAS mailing list and web pages are scheduled to become operational at end of September. This will facilitate communication with the membership. T. Courvoisier presented a more detailed report. The driving principle behind the design of the web is that it should allow the integration of contributions from different people. To stay current, it will have to be continuously maintained and updated.

## **9. EAS Newsletter**

V. Charmandaris presented a report covering his activities as Editor. He will include a report about JENAM2007 in the December issue and asked reports from the organizers of symposia and general comments about the meaning in Armenia from the president.

There were comments from Ukraine and Armenia who suggested that they could distribute the newsletter instead of EAS directly thus reducing costs.

The possibility of issuing an electronic-only Newsletter was raised but there was no will to go down that route.

## **10. EAS Meeting with Affiliated Societies, Leiden, 21–23 January 2008**

There are many reasons why a face-to-face meeting is needed of the EAS and Affiliated Societies. Such a meeting is now planned to be held at the Lorentz Center in Leiden, 21-23 January 2008. The President reports on the planning for this meeting and an invitation will shortly be distributed. In addition to affiliated members the invitation will be extended to potential new affiliated societies, to attend as observers. To alleviate the anticipated problems with the participation of some affiliated agencies, 2.5 kEuro will be reserved for support to Eastern countries.

## **11. Proposal for an EAS Prize**

The proposal to create an EAS prize was presented the President. The statute of the prize as agreed by Council is given in Appendix 3. The proposed name is the "Tycho Brahe Prize".

Mickaelian makes a report about UNESCO funded activities in connection with SREAC meetings.

## **12. JENAM 2008, Vienna**

JENAM 2008 will be organized in Vienna, from September 8 to 12, at the invitation of the Astronomische Gesellschaft and of the newly founded Österreichische Gesellschaft für Astronomie und Astrophysik. A call will be issued for JENAM symposia to be held at this occasion, with a deadline for replies set at October 31st, 2007. One symposium has already been agreed upon, namely one on the European\_ELT, co-organized with ESO.

## **13. Future Activities of EAS**

There was a presentation by Prof. Hugh R A Jones of the University of Hertfordshire of the current status of JENAM 2009 which will be held from 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. More information can be found on the web page at <http://www.jenam2009.eu/>

It was noted that in 2009 we will be celebrating the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). EAS will have to make a proposal for its activities in the light of this.

## **14. Next General and Council Meetings**

The next general assembly (business meeting) will be held during JENAM2008. The next council meeting will be in conjunction with the Lorentz Center meeting in January 2008.

## **15. Other Business**

The status of membership of the Bulgarian Astronomical Society will have to be clarified. They as yet haven't asked for affiliate membership.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Appendices:**

- **Appendix 1:** *Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account as by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and the EAS Budget 2008*
- **Appendix 2:** EAS 2002 - 2006 Economical Development
- **Appendix 3:** Statute of the EAS (Tycho Brahe) Prize

# Appendix 1



## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT IN EUR As per December 31 2006

### INCOME

#### Membership fees paid directly to EAS

Ordinary members	5'399.66	
Junior & Senior members	658.30	
32 Lifetime members	1'066.00	
Total paid directly		7'123.96

#### Membership fees paid through Affiliated Societies

Ordinary members	8'923.38	
Junior & Senior members	679.03	
Total paid through Societies		9'602.41

Travel grant fund donation 06 584.90

Interest 228.44  
Currencies rates adjustments 53.66  
Sales & advertisements 1'284.15

**Total Income** EUR 18'877.52

### EXPENSES

#### Administration - Services

Administration	4'408.62	
EAS web page's enhancement (reserve)	1'245.17	
Office material	564.95	
Mailing (invoices and others)	923.33	
		7'142.07

#### Bank & credit cards charges

Bank charges	194.02	
Credit cards charges	330.58	
		524.60

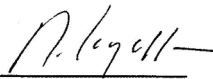
#### Newsletters No 31 & 32

Production	4'729.88	
Distribution	1'474.38	
		6'204.26

Travels - Conferences - meetings 684.99

**Total Expenses** EUR 14'555.92

**Result of the year (profit)** EUR 4'321.60

  
Martine Logossou  
Executive secretary



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET IN EUR  
As per December 31 2006

ASSETS	2006
Cash	1'947.11
Current accounts	17'924.97
Savings account	45'136.66
Withholding tax 1999-2004	1'172.15
Account receivable	5'284.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>EUR <u><u>71'464.89</u></u></b>

LIABILITIES

Prepaid membership	3'917.05
Lifetime members	10'388.90
Accounts payable	6'528.64
Travel Grant Fund	2'130.24
Capital	
Capital from previous year	44'178.46
Surplus of the year	4'321.60
	<b><u><u>48'500.06</u></u></b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>EUR <u><u>71'464.89</u></u></b>

Geneva, March 23 2007

Martine Logossou  
Executive secretary

# European Astronomical Society

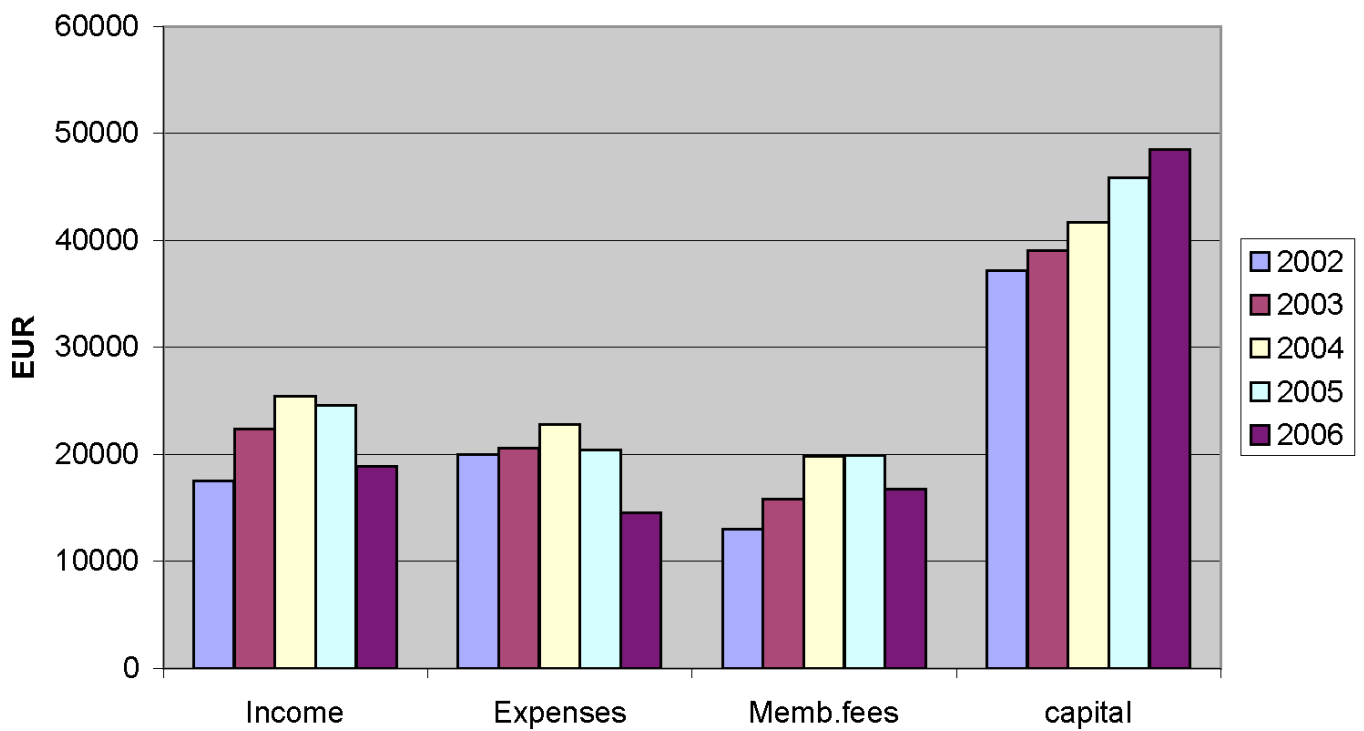
## Proposed budget for 2008

<b>Income (Euro)</b>		<b>Expenses (Euro)</b>	
Membership fees	17.100	Newsletter	6.300
Sales	1.300	Secretariat	6.000
Donation for travel grant	600	Postage + off.mat	1.300
Transfer from travel fund	1.500	Reserve (meetings + travel)	9.500
Transfer from Capital	8.000	Bank charges	600
		Grants, JENAM	4.000
		Web page	
		400	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>28.500</b>	Unforeseen exp.	400
		<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>28.500</b>



## Appendix 2

### EAS 2002 - 2006 Economical development



## Appendix 3

### Statute of the Tycho Brahe Prize

#### *Preamble*

The EAS creates the Tycho Brahe Prize, to be awarded annually, in recognition of the development or exploitation of European instruments, or major discoveries based largely on such instruments.

#### *Award*

The prize will carry a monetary reward of 6000 Euro. The award ceremony will take place during the annual EAS meeting. The winner of the prize will be invited to present a talk at one of the plenary sessions. The prize lecture will be published in the *Astronomy and Astrophysics Reviews*.

#### *Nomination*

There are no restrictions to nationality of the candidates nor to the country of origin or residence. Nominations should arrive at the EAS Secretariat by 31<sup>st</sup> October of the year preceding the award. Nominations can be made by EAS members.

#### *Selection procedure*

EAS Council may appoint a Prize Award Committee. This committee will consist of a Chair and 5 members. The Chair will have qualifying vote. The Award Committee will forward their selection to EAS Council for ratification.