

European Astronomical Society

18th General Assembly
Lisbon, September 8, 2010

Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The Session was opened by the President, Joachim Krautter, at 14h35.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Upon suggestion by the President, the agenda item related to the EPS, and to EWASS2012 (formerly JENAM) were added. With these additions, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 17th General Assembly, Hatfield, 2009

The minutes from the 17th General Assembly, Hatfield, 2009, were adopted unanimously.

3. Report by the President

At this, the 20th anniversary of the EAS, the President provided a retrospective, recalling how the EAS was founded in 1990 by Lodewijk Woltjer, Martin Huber, Jean-Pierre Swings and Alexander Boyarchuk.

The President was pleased to announce EAS Council had decided to name Lodewijk Woltjer its first Honorary Member, in recognition for his many contributions to astronomy in Europe and in furthering the cause of the EAS. Joachim Krautter then proceeded to give a summary of Woltjer's achievements.

He next mentioned that EAS Council has instituted the "Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture". The prize consists of a medal and certificate. The Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture is presented as part of a scientific meeting usually during the European Week of Astronomy & Space Science (EWASS) of the EAS. Nominations for this award are made by EAS Council.

Joachim Krauter mentioned his close involvement with the Society over the past 14 years. He entered Council when he was elected in 1996, became its Secretary in 2000, and President in 2006. He then proceeded to list the main achievements of EAS in the last decade.

First of all, the JENAM has transformed into the European Week of Astronomy & Space Science (EWASS) and now benefits greatly from the close involvement of the big players on the European scene, such as ESA and ESO, and this year for the first time participation by CERN. It also provides a forum to discuss astro-political issues, such as those pursued by ASTRONET. Participation in the yearly EWASS has as a result become European-wide, and less dominated by the country organizing the meeting.

Turning to the Affiliated Societies, the President stressed that the national societies and the EAS complement each other. Issues arising on a national level remain the remit of the Affiliated Societies whereas Europe-wide issues are those where the EAS is best placed to speak on behalf of its members across the region. Links with the Affiliated Societies are being strengthened, such as through initiatives like the meeting with all Affiliated Societies held at the Lorentz Center in Leiden in January 2008, and the setting up of yearly Business Meetings, held usually at the time of the EWASS.

The state of the membership is a continuing source of concern. In 1996 EAS had ~1400 members, although many were dormant and were in arrears with their membership dues. After transferring the membership database to its current home at the ISDC near Geneva and a thorough update, the number of active members proved to be closer to ~800. Currently, EAS has 930 paying members.

EAS has over the years become more visible and is playing a more active political role as well which, it is hoped, will bring in more members. To help with this, EAS has produced a brochure which is available in hardcopy and electronically. The President thanked Vice-President Jan Palouš for his efforts and ESO for generously helping with the graphic design.

The modest number of members implies the budget, which is almost entirely based on membership fees, is modest as well, at ~30000 Euro. Plans for an increase more or less in line with inflation, had to be put on hold due to the economic crisis that has hit many member countries. However, an increase in future years is unavoidable.

EAS is conscious of the many contributions “in kind” which makes it possible to run its activities and the President thanked in particular the ISDC for supporting the EAS Secretariat and to the home institutes of EAS Councilors that have agreed to cover travel costs of those staff that are serving on EAS Council.

Alternative sources of support are actively being sought as well, something which has been made possible by the recent changes to the EAS Constitution and Bye-Laws, allowing the new category of Organisational members, such as universities, institutes, companies, and publishers.

Despite its modest budget, EAS offers a lot to its members, and the community at large:

- it supported IYA2009 to the tune of 12000 Euro by becoming IYA Organisational Associate, through IYA2009 related travel grants, and by co-sponsoring four IYA2009 projects,
- EAS provides travel grants to its members,

- EAS awards yearly the Tycho Brahe prize worth 6000 Euro plus travel cost to the EWASS (this is facilitated through a generous grant by the Klaus Tschirra Foundation),
- EAS awards the yearly Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture (covering travel costs to the EWASS),
- EAS provides a Career Service on its web pages,
- EAS issues of order 6 EAS eNews announcements via e-mail to its members and publishes twice-yearly the EAS Newsletter, the latter being expertly put together by the Newsletter editor Vassilis Charmandaris,
- there is the EAS Publication Series from EDP Sciences, available at a discount to the members, overseen by Jean-Paul Zahn,
- EAS has instituted with its sister society, the EPS, a Joint Solar Physics Division.

In closing his report, the President thanked our Portuguese colleagues for putting together an exciting EWASS. He gratefully acknowledged the fantastic support over the years provided by Martine Logossou and her colleagues, and the contributions in kind by the ISDC and the University of Geneva.

The President thanked outgoing Vice-President Martin Huber (who took over last year from Thierry Courvoisier when he stepped down), and councilors Ernesto (Tino) Oliva and Alexander Stepanov, and all past and current councilors he has had the pleasure of working with over the past 14 years for their hard work, and for making the EAS into what it is today. Finally, he thanked the EAS members for their trust.

(the auditorium erupted into applause)

4. Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Anne Dutrey, presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as by December 31st, 2009 and the *EAS Budget 2011* (see Appendix 1). The latter was presented for information, it having been approved earlier during the EAS Council meeting. Anne Dutrey pointed out EAS decided to increase the travel grants by 1000 Euro.

She added a few words on the IYA2009 activities EAS supported and highlighted one of them, a project run by the Spanish node of IYA2009, creating an astronomy-themed book for children.

The Auditor's report was read (see Appendix 1). The accounts were unanimously approved, following recommendation by the auditors.

The President then thanked the Auditors for their report and he thanked the Treasurer, Anne Dutrey, and Martine Logossou and the ISDC staff, Marie-Claude Dunand and Mathias Beck, for their excellent job. He also congratulated the Treasurer with her reelection.

5. Report by the Secretary

In addition to the usual tasks, the Secretary, Elias Brinks, reported that he:

- spent time wrapping up the EWASS held last year in Hatfield, and based on his experience

of co-organising this meeting, provided the LOC of the Lisbon EWASS with a report with suggestions and general advice,

- generally assisted officers of the Society with the drafting of EAS official statements,
- with the EAS secretariat (Martine Logossou and Mathias Beck) sent out documents and updated the EAS Web,
- initiated and distributed 8 EAS e-News issues since April 2009 or a frequency of 1 every 2 months,
- sent out the call for Tycho Brahe prize and disseminated a Press Release on the award of the EAS Tycho Brahe prize and Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture,
- continued his attempts to improve the communication among the EAS, its Affiliated Societies and its members,
- participated in the ISE General Assembly on behalf of the EAS.

The President thanked the Secretary for his dedication (applause).

6. Joint Division with the EPS

Discussions that were started during last year's EWASS to recreate a Joint Division on Solar Physics between EPS and EAS, have culminated with the approval of this initiative by both Societies. A formal signed agreement is imminent and the creation of the JD will be announced to the members in due course.

Birgitta Nordstrom enquired how many Solar Physics members EPS had; Martin Huber replied of order 100.

7. Council Elections

Elections were due this year to replace the following Councilors: Joachim Krautter (President), Martin Huber (Vice-President), Anne Dutrey (Treasurer, eligible for reelection), Ernesto (Tino) Oliva, Alexander Stepanov.

EAS Council charged a Search Committee with finding suitable candidates willing to serve. This committee consisted of:

Birgitta Nordstrom
Yaroslav Yatskiv
Ian Robson

Election papers were sent out to the members with the candidates proposed by Council. No further nominations were received which meant the following members were elected unopposed to Council:

Thierry Courvoisier (President)
Mary Kontizas (Vice-President)
Anne Dutrey (Treasurer, reelected)
Joao Fernandes

Andrej Finkelstein

Joachim Krautter expresses his thanks to the Search Committee, and wishes the new Councilors success in their endeavour. He invites the incoming president, Thierry Courvoisier, to share his thoughts about his plans for the near future.

Thierry Courvoisier stresses three issues:

- the fact that there now have been several successful European Weeks of Astronomy & Space Science (EWASS)
- the increased visibility of EAS through its prizes, the Tycho Brahe Prize and Lodewijk Woltjer Lecture,
- the changes to the EAS Constitution opening the doors to having Organisational Members.

Regarding this latter point, he invites those present to make suggestions as to which organisations could be approached to become organisational member.

Thierry thanked Martin Huber for having taken over his charge as Vice-President after he stepped down from Council last year, and for having agreed to write a synthesis of the EU astro-political landscape. He envisages EAS Council commissioning more reports in future, such as on the future of EU Space Missions.

8. EWASS 2011, St. Petersburg, Russia

EWASS 2011 will be held from 4-8 July, 2011 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Alexander Stepanov, Co-chair of the LOC and SOC provided an update of the status of the preparations, and noted some of the key dates related to registration, abstract submission, and deadline for grant applications.

9. EWASS 2012, Rome, Italy

Giuseppe Bono, representing the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt), announces that EWASS 2012 will be held in Rome, either late June or early July (in order to avoid direct overlap with the Beijing GA of the IAU).

10. Any Other Business

This being the final act of the outgoing President, the incoming president, Thierry Courvoisier, offered Joachim Krautter a token of appreciation, thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to the cause of the EAS, to rapturous applause of those present.

As no further questions were raised, the President closed the session, thanking all attending for their participation, at 15h50.

**Appendix 1: Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account as per
December 31st, 2009**



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET IN Eur
As per December 31 2009

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash	1'558.79	1'567.02
Current accounts	11'743.08	15'070.90
Savings account	47'997.10	45'561.18
Withholding tax	259.21	165.49
Account receivable	6'460.19	2'178.00
Paid beforehand	0.00	4'000.00
Total assets	EUR <u>68'018.37</u>	<u>68'542.59</u>
 LIABILITIES		
Prepaid membership	474.25	4'020.78
Lifetime members	10'143.90	10'738.90
Accounts payable	12'537.05	2'467.23
Travel Grant fund	616.96	134.96
Capital	41'603.93	47'595.34
Surplus of previous year	94.79	3'490.59
Surplus of the year	2'547.49	94.79
Total liabilities	EUR <u>68'018.37</u>	<u>68'542.59</u>

Geneva, May 26 2010

Martine Logossou
Executive secretary



COMPARISON - PL 2009 & PL 2008 IN EUR

As per December 31 2009

INCOME	PL 2009	PL 2008
Ordinary members & reduced fee	13'966.46	14'976.17
Junior/seniors members	1'587.92	2'343.00
Lifetime members	1'260.00	1'260.00
Sales	1'300.00	1'300.00
Interests	258.75	472.92
Travel grant donation of the year	454.64	482.00
Donation Tycho Brahe Prize	6'000.00	6'000.00
Transfer from travel fund (liabilities)	0.00	1'500.00
Exceptional income	5'000.00	0.00
Currency realignment	2'276.01	0.00
Transfer from capital	9'000.00	0.00
Total Income	EUR 41'103.78	28'334.09

EXPENSES

Newsletters Production	4'209.79	4'128.45
Newsletters Distribution	1'138.82	1'209.20
Support administration & services	6'000.00	6'122.82
Postage	503.74	1'225.66
Office material	0.00	819.63
Travel meetings	887.20	1'552.38
Credit card commissions and bank charges	455.79	830.06
Grants for Jenam (+ desk in 09)	5'000.00	3'362.00
Other grants and particip. (Leiden in 08 / IYA in 09)	12'010.00	2'500.00
Web page	2'000.00	408.19
Tycho Brahe Prize	6'000.00	6'000.00
Others expenses	350.95	80.91
Total Expenses	EUR 38'556.29	28'239.30
Result of the year (profit)	EUR 2'547.49	94.79

Geneva, May 26 2010

Martine Logossou
Executive secretary

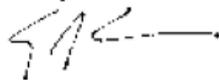
AUDITORS' REPORT

We, Georges Meylan and Sandro Merghetti, have looked at the 2009 accounts of the European Astronomical Society on June 15, 2010. We found the accounts in very good order and clearly presented. Thus we recommend that the accounts be accepted by the General Assembly, as presented.

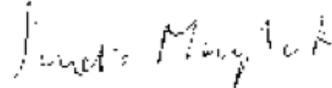
We acknowledge that membership fees from all countries have been carefully registered according to the member status, annual country fee and fiscal year of payment for either contributions or through affiliated societies, allowing a full visibility on the income from members. Since the fee encashment processing is rather heavy for the EAS secretariat, we encourage the Council to offer an on-line individual method of payment to the EAS members. This hopefully would also contribute to an improved regularity of the fee payment.

We are very grateful to Martine Logossou and the ISDC staff for their strong commitment and high quality of work, including new initiatives, for the benefits of the EAS.

G. Meylan



S. Merghetti



Versoix, June 15 2010.