

European Astronomical Society

19th General Assembly
St. Petersburg, July 6, 2011

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The Session was opened by the President, Thierry Courvoisier, at 15h00.
The minutes were taken by the Vice-President, Mary Kontizas

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Upon suggestion by the President, agenda items related to the initiative of EAS Colloquia and a presentation on the EAS Publication Series and were added. With these additions, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 18th General Assembly, Lisbon, 2010

The minutes from the 18th General Assembly, Lisbon, 2010, were adopted unanimously.

3. Report by the President

A copy of this is attached, in full, to these minutes (Appendix 1). This was followed by a brief discussion during which the President explained to a question from the Ukrainian representative, that EAS can better speak for the astronomical community on EU matters, and is more independent, than either ASTRONET or OPTICON are.

4. Report on the 2010 accounts by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Anne Dutrey, presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as by December 31st, 2010 (see Appendix 2).

5. Report by the Auditors

The Auditor's report was read (see Appendix 3).

6. Approval of the 2010 accounts

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 for their diligence.

7. Presentation of the 2012 budget by the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the *EAS Budget for 2012* (see Appendix 4). The latter was presented for information, it having been approved earlier during the EAS Council meeting.

In her presentation the Treasurer stressed the need for homogenising the payment of fees through the Affiliated Societies.

8. Report by the Secretary (read in absentia)

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

- with the EAS secretariat (Martine Logossou and Mathias Beck) was involved in updating the EAS Web,
- distributed 8 EAS e-News issues or a frequency of 1 every 1.5 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,
- assisted, later as member of the SOC with the organisation of the EWASS in St Petersburg.

The President thanked the Secretary for his work.

9. EWASS 2012, Rome, Italy

An update was given on next year's EWASS. Preparations are going apace. Roger Davies (President RAS) suggested the 2013 EWASS should be jointly organised by several Affiliated Societies rather than the customary arrangement of one Affiliated Society being the host. The President replied this will be taken up in a meeting with all Affiliated Societies in February 2012 (see also Appendix 1).

10. EAS Colloquia

The Treasurer presented her suggestion to offer financial help to organize workshops that are limited to ~80 participants, to be called EAS Colloquia. The rules detailing the application and selection procedure have in the meantime been made public in the EAS Web pages.

11. EAS Publication Series

The Editor of the EAS Publication Series, J.-P. Zahn, presented an update on its status. Since its inception in 2001, 50 volumes have been published. The emphasis is to publish papers on one subject per volume rather than it being the proceedings of various subjects.

10. Any Other Business

A question was raised regarding the relation between EAS and the EPS, and the possibility to extend the arrangement of a Joint Division on Solar Physics with others, e.g., on Gravitational Waves and Particle Astrophysics. This was noted.

There was a question about the relation between the IAU and EAS. The President replied that this fell under the responsibility of our Vice-President, Jan Palous.

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

Appendix 1: President's report
Thierry J.-L. Courvoisier July 6, 2011

The EAS is for now a low budget society. All the work rests on the administration support we get from the office in Geneva and on the shoulders of the council members. I want to start by expressing my, and I hope your, warmest thanks for the work done by these people and in particular to those members of council who move the society forward and to the Editor of our Newsletter.

A society like ours has two options to keep balanced accounts. Either we keep our level of activity low, such that it can be carried out free of charge by the council members or we work towards increasing substantially our income. The first option does simply not allow us to have any reasonable level of presence on the European scene, be it simply because of the absence of a travel budget for council members to attend meetings or establish contacts. If we are serious about being the voice of the European astronomers we have no choice but to follow the second option. This is why we actively seek organisational members for our society. These members are expected to contribute between about 1000 and 10000 Euros per year to the running of the society. To date we convinced 7 organisations to join and we are in discussion with a number of potential candidates.

Members are urged to contribute to this effort by looking with their institutions and with public or private profit or non-profit organisations who benefit from a lively astronomical community to see whether they would be ready to come on board. There is no reason why we could not find a large number and certainly more than 100 organisations in all areas of Europe to join. This will bring our income to a level where we can hire some stable manpower to do some real work for the society.

With the increase of budget we already achieved we could start to increasing our level of activity. We did this in several ways. One is the formation of working groups to think about questions of relevance to us or to the society around us and to develop “the view of the Society” on the issues they tackle. Groups on the future of space astronomy (under the leadership of M. Watson of Leicester University), on astronomical publication (under the leadership of J. Zorec of the Institute of Astronomy of Paris) have been formed. We are in discussion about a couple more subjects for which the society should express a clear view. Council has decided that some level of funding would be available for this activity.

We also worked out a process to reach what we mean by “the view from the society”. This goes as follows: Council sets the mandate of the working groups and approves their membership at the beginning. When the working group is close to the end of its work it will post a draft position paper on the web. This paper will be open for comments by members before a final version is prepared and is then approved by Council and distributed as appropriate. We hope in this way to reach satisfactory consensus. This process will be reviewed when we gain some experience.

In the same direction of increasing our presence on the European scene we initiated contact with the European commission, who were happy to see us. Following this visit we prepared a response to the call for comments that the commission had opened as a step in preparation for the next European research funding period. You can read this paper in the last issue of our Newsletter. It

is clear, however, that we need a much more regular follow up of the EC affairs, one of the tasks of a future EAS person.

As far as contacts go we also started discussions with our colleagues of the EPS. It is interesting to see that they share many of the questioning we have. This is not really surprising as both societies are working towards giving a European identity to their communities, which are used to have a stronger national identity.

In the coming months we intend to pursue the dialogues we established. We also intend to take contact with the AAS with whom we have not had many contacts in some time.

You will also have seen that our web pages have improved and I hope that you appreciate this. As part of this effort, the number of job announcements has increased considerably. J. Fernandes is in charge of this; please do let him know of your job opportunities. This applies to positions located in either Western or Eastern institutions.

We started a discussion on the evolution of the EWASS. This was prompted by the success of the meeting we had in Hertfordshire and a subsequent letter from the RAS seeking to see how we could repeat this very positive experience. We have called a new meeting, the second, with the affiliated societies to discuss this issue. Our goal is to get to a truly pan-European yearly meeting. How to move in this direction will be the main topic of this meeting that will take place on the shores of Lake Geneva on the first 2 days of February. The presidents of the national societies have been informed and we hope that they will attend in number so that we have as lively a meeting as we had in Leiden.

Finally some members of Council are up for renewal or are moving out of Council next year. We are therefore setting up a nominating committee to plan for this. Working within council is a real job, not just an honorary position. We are therefore seeking people with the highest scientific standard, but also ready to invest a non-negligible amount of their time in the service of the Society. We will announce the composition of the nominating committee through an electronic news item, but those of you present here who would like to consider this, for themselves or for a colleague, are invited to contact one of us.

Last year was a very active one for your Council. We have all reasons to expect that the next one will be as intense and welcome all the support we can get from you.

**Appendix 2: Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account as per
December 31st, 2009**



Treasurer Report 2011

Treasurer: Anne Dutrey,
LAB, Bordeaux, France

Executive secretary: Martine Logossou,
ISDC, Geneva, Switzerland

**The European Week of Astronomy and Space
Science - JENAM 2011**

St Petersburg, July 2011

EAS General Assembly

INCOME	PL 2010	PL 2009
Ordinary members & reduced fee	16'334.19	13'966.46
Junior/seniors members	1'318.58	1'587.92
Lifetime members	1'365.00	1'260.00
Institutional members	8'000.00	0.00
Sales	1'300.00	1'300.00
Interests	261.37	258.75
Travel grant donation of the year	675.19	454.64
Donation Tycho Brahe Prize	6'000.00	6'000.00
Transfer from travel fund (liabilities)	0.00	0.00
Exceptional income	0.00	5'000.00
Currency realignment	8'442.38	2'276.01
Transfer from capital	0.00	9'000.00
Total Income	EUR 43'696.71	41'103.78

EXPENSES

Newsletters Production	4'731.88	4'209.79
Newsletters Distribution	2'015.88	1'138.82
Leaflet production	505.00	0.00
Support administration & services	6'000.00	6'000.00
Postage & office material	1'178.04	503.74
Travel meetings	2'352.50	887.20
Credit card commissions and bank charges	615.89	455.79
Grants for Jenam (+ desk in 09)	4'590.00	5'000.00
Other grants and particip. (IYA in 09)	0.00	12'010.00
Web page	2'000.00	2'000.00
Tycho Brahe Prize	6'360.74	6'000.00
Others expenses	792.94	350.95
Currency realignment	15.96	0.00
Total Expenses	EUR 31'158.83	38'556.29
Result of the year (profit)	EUR 12'537.88	2'547.49

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET IN Eur
As per December 31 2010

ASSETS	2010	2009
Cash	1'717.82	1'558.79
Current accounts	36'585.18	11'743.08
Savings account	41'080.13	47'997.10
Withholding tax	96.09	259.21
Account receivable	4'188.99	6'460.19
Paid beforehand	0.00	0.00
Total assets	EUR <u><u>83'668.21</u></u>	<u><u>68'018.37</u></u>
 LIABILITIES		
Prepaid membership	1'747.37	474.25
Lifetime members	10'178.90	10'143.90
Accounts payable	14'340.89	12'537.05
Travel Grant fund	1'071.60	616.96
Capital	41'244.08	41'603.93
Surplus of previous year	2'547.49	94.79
Surplus of the year	12'537.88	2'547.49
Total liabilities	EUR <u><u>83'668.21</u></u>	<u><u>68'018.37</u></u>

Appendix 3: Auditor's report 2010

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, Georges Meylan and Sandro Mereghetti, have looked at the 2010 accounts of the European Astronomical Society on May 26, 2011 at ISDC in Versoix. We found the accounts to be in very good order and 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, allowing a full visibility on the income from all members.

We also welcome the affiliation of organizational members and encourage the council to promote such new memberships.

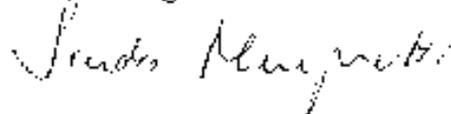
We took note of the disparity in the full fee of membership, depending on the way of payment: individually or through affiliated societies. We recommend to suppress such a difference which creates a very significant administrative burden for the society.

We are very grateful to ISDC staff, Martine Logosson, Marie-Claude Dunand and Marc Tuerler for their continuous strong commitment and high quality work, including new initiatives for the benefits of the EAS.



G. Meylan

S. Mereghetti



Appendix 4: Proposed EAS budget for 2012



Proposed budget for 2012

Income (Euro)		Expenses (Euro)	
Membership fees	18000	Newsletter	7000
Institutional Members:	12000	Secretariat (adm & services)	6000
Sales	1300	Postage & off.supplies	1500
Donation for travel grant	500	Web page	2000
Transfer from Capital	8800	Bank & credit card charges	600
(JENAM + travel for prizes		JENAM(grants + 3K/springer)	8000
+ leaflet)		EAS Prizes (inc. travel)	8000
EAS Prize	6000	Meetings/Jenam	2000
(Klaus Tschira foundation)		Af.Soc meetings	5000
Total income	46600	CS support/ 300/per	3000
		Working group	3000
		Unforeseen exp.	500
		Total expenses	46600