

European Astronomical Society

22nd General Assembly Geneva, July 2, 2014

Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The session was opened by the President, Thierry Courvoisier, at 11h00.
The minutes were taken by the Secretary Serena Viti

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with two small changes to it: the presentation of the budget for 2015 will take place once the 2013 accounts have been approved and will be presented by the outgoing treasurer Anne Dutrey. The second point added to the agenda is the election of two new auditors.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 21st General Assembly, Turku, 2013

The minutes from the 21st General Assembly, Turku, 2013, were accepted unanimously.

3. Report by the President

A copy of this is attached, in full, to these minutes. There were no questions from the members.

4. Report on the 2013 accounts by the outgoing Treasurer

The Treasurer, Anne Dutrey, presented the report for the 2013 accounts (attached to these minutes).

Of note: we have an approximately constant number of members, hence we are not succeeding in increasing numbers. Balance and liabilities have been the same for the last two years.

There is question from the audience regarding the lack of colloquia on the list of expenses and Anne Dutrey states that it was a decision of the Council to stop this action.

5. Report by the Auditors

The Auditor's report was read (attached to these minutes).

6. Approval of the 2013 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 most sincerely for the considerable work involved and for their diligence.

7. Presentation of the 2015 budget by the outgoing Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the *EAS Budget for 2015* (see Appendix 2). The latter was presented for information, it having been approved earlier during the EAS Council meeting.

8. Appointment of new auditors

The president informs the members that we have to elect two new auditors. Council proposes Georges Meylan and Thierry Montmerle; as no objections are raised they are elected.

9. Outgoing councilors and new member of council

The president thanks the leaving council members, Joao Fernandes, Yuri Poutanen, Mary Kontizas, Anne Dutrey and Johan Knapen for their services. The president then introduces the new councilors:

Emmanouil Angelakis, who will be replacing Mary Kontizas as the new vice-president
Coralie Neiner
Olga Silchenko
Eline Tolstoy
Johan Knapen as the new Treasurer

10. Report on organizational members

Johan Knapen reports on the organizational members situation. He points out we have redefined benefits which are now listed on our website and we have introduced a 3 tier structure. We have compiled a list of possible organizational members but the response has so far been disappointing. Johan Knapen and the president invite all members to help Council to get more organizational members.

11. Report by the Secretary

The Secretary, Serena Viti, reports on the activities of the EAS Secretary, In addition to the usual tasks, the Secretary reported that she distributed 8 EAS e-News issues with a frequency of 1 every 1.5-2 months, wrote summaries of Council meetings for publication in the EAS Newsletter, and chaired a committee for the election of new council members. The secretary thanks Mike Bode, Françoise Combes, Javier Gorgas and Piet van de Kruit for being part of the search committee.

12. Report on EAS Prizes

Francesco Palla reported on the prizes and reminds members of the deadlines:

Tycho Brahe Prize: October 31, 2014

Merac prizes: September 30, 2014

It is noted that the Tycho Prize should be advertised more widely. There is suggestion from the audience that ESO should support the Tycho Brahe prize.

13. EWASS 2015, Tenerife, Spain

Johan Knapen reports on EWASS 2015, which will be in Tenerife. There is support from the University and the site, venue and date are now fixed. EAS in collaboration with the Spanish Society as well as Koni will be responsible for EWASS 2015. The call for proposals for the symposia as well as the Special sessions is now out. The deadline is the end of July. The SOC comprises of 20 prominent scientists from different fields.

14. EWASS 2016

The president reports that EWASS 2016 will be in Athens although the decision will be finalized tomorrow at the Council Meeting. It will probably be the last week of June, beginning of July.

15. Any Other Business

The president opens the floor to general question. It is pointed out that the fact that we can not sign up to become EAS members via the national societies is a bad move from the EAS. Thierry Courvoisier answers that this will be revisited in due course.

The SOC of this year is congratulated for having chosen young plenary speakers.

It is also suggested that during the General Assembly, when the EAS prizes and EWASS meetings are discussed we should have slides put up.

At 12 o'clock, the president closes the General Assembly and thanks the EAS members for attending.

President's report

General assembly 2014

Thierry J.-L. Courvoisier

Geneva, July 1, 2014

The EAS is continuing its evolution in several ways. First and foremost, the organisation of the EWASS meetings underwent a considerable change. These meetings are expected to be the main arena within which European astronomers share their results in a multi-disciplinary environment and within which European astronomy shapes its future. It is also one of the most important building blocks to evolve towards a truly European identity for the astronomical community, a step I consider essential to ensure a leading place for our astronomy among the world community. In order to achieve these goals EWASS meetings had to grow significantly, they did so in recent years (we are more than 500 here) but still have to progress on this front. They have to assemble a representative number of symposia and to provide a platform where matters of importance to astronomers are presented and discussed. There is also progress on that front with ESA, ESO and ASTRONET sessions. A consequence of this growth is that our meetings have to be professionally organised under the auspices of the EAS, a decision that council took some time ago, and that became a reality.

Of importance in relation with the influence that the community wants to have on the political scene is a development that could federate the national societies under the umbrella of the EAS to implement a permanent presence in Brussels. Such a presence has been discussed for a long time within EAS. However the finances of the EAS have not allowed us to develop this yet. Important national societies, in particular in Germany and in the UK have the means to fund this effort and proposed to implement it now. Council decided, following discussions already in January, to contribute to this effort and to serve as an umbrella for an astronomical presence close to the European institutions. Council and affiliated societies will discuss the

implementation of this plan in the coming months. Such an arrangement gives the national societies a forum where policies can be harmonised, also with the EAS. It gives more weight to the affiliated societies within EAS than was the case up to now. This may be considered a good thing as long as most of the research and teaching funding is national. It is also a good thing in regard of the fact that national positions towards the European commission will be better coordinated. However this is not a step towards the goal of building a truly European identity. The path towards a really unified Europe is still long.

We will review accounts in a minute, let me stress here, however, that funding is the bottleneck in our work. Our society needs funds to support the work behind these meetings, to deal with all questions of membership to inform you of where we stand and, last but certainly not least, to develop positions, make them known and gain influence. I would therefore urge you to help us acquire new members, individual and, financially more important, organisational. You can help there. Talk to your institutions and to firms you may be close to, tell them of our work and encourage them to join.

EAS published last fall a report on open access journals. This effort has been led first by Juan Zorec of Paris and then by Klaas de Boer of Bonn. The report is an excellent read for those who, like me, are not very familiar with the issue. It shows very well that behind the naively simple assertion that results from publicly funded research must be publicly available hides a complex field of tension that goes as far as the freedom to publish in journals of our choice. Council will see whether any further action is required, but it may be useful to stress here that the current situation in astronomy, where all our papers are archived on a publicly available data base, and where our data are systematically publicly available after a delay, mostly of a year, is already excellent.

A further working group on the ethics of our work habits, publications and promotion policies has not quite taken up the necessary speed. We will see in council how to work on this question, that I consider more and more important.

We have in the last two years taken the habit of conducting a yearly two days meeting that includes a council meeting and a meeting with the affiliated societies in January. This has proved an excellent forum to further the business of the society and we'll seek to continue this habit.

The EAS has its seat at the ISDC within the University of Geneva. This has been so for a number of years, independently from the presence of a local astronomer in Council. This arrangement is working very well. In order to warrant this also beyond

my term both as professor in Geneva and president of EAS, we are in the process of formalising the relationship of the society and the university. This will take the form of a convention that is now in preparation.

Finally let me express my thanks to all those who give time, energy and competence to our efforts. They are the council members, and among them particularly the treasurer, Anne Dutrey, and the Secretary, Serena Viti. It is also the staff at the EAS office, Martine Logossou, Marc Tuerler and Marie-Claude Dunand. Without them, we would be nowhere.



Treasurer Report 2014

Treasurer: Anne Dutrey,
LAB, Bordeaux, France

Financial and admin. Officer: Martine Logossou,
ISDC, Geneva, Switzerland

**The European Week of Astronomy and Space
Science – EWASS 2014**

Geneva, July 2 2014

EAS General Assembly



Income

lines	INCOME		PL 2013	PL 2012
1	Ordinary members & reduced fee		16'757.53	15'479.99
2	Junior/seniors members		1'775.22	1'565.57
3	Lifetime members		1'133.00	1'111.00
4	Institutional members		45'900.00	40'900.00
5	Sales		1'300.00	1'300.00
6	Interests		86.65	185.96
7	Travel grant donation from individual members		817.62	1'103.30
8	Travel grant donation from institutional members		3'000.00	3'000.00
9	Other donation (KT for TB Prize + other)		6'000.00	6'000.00
10	Transfer from travel fund (liabilities)		0.00	0.00
11	Exceptional income		2'121.37	0.00
12	Currency realignment		0.00	211.98
13	Transfer from capital		0.00	0.00
	Total Income	EUR	78'891.39	70'857.80

Expenses



EXPENSES

14	Newsletters Production	2'845.41	5'392.02
15	Newsletters Distribution	829.96	1'556.12
16	Advert/communication (EAS & Merac)	1'692.32	6'412.65
17	Support administration & services	8'000.00	6'000.00
18	Postage & office material	1'291.61	1'368.64
19	Medal L. Woltjer Lecture	38.60	5'959.43
20	Travel meetings (EWASS - WG - Council)	21'421.44	7'880.19
21	Credit card commissions and bank charges	590.82	683.38
22	Grants for EWASS / symposia / Rolle 2013	15'720.51	6'189.85
23	Web page (EAS maintenance & online pt dev.)	4'000.00	2'000.00
24	EWASS web page manag. tool	3'000.00	-
25	Tycho Brahe Prize	6'000.00	6'000.00
26	Colloquia	5'000.00	5'000.00
27	Services / Rolle 13 / online pt taxes / unforeseen expenses	4'776.33	1'386.71
28	Currency realignment	826.85	626.94

Total Expenses EUR 76'033.85 56'455.93

Result of the year (profit) EUR **2'857.54** **14'401.87**

Martine Logossou
Financial & Adm. Officer

Balance

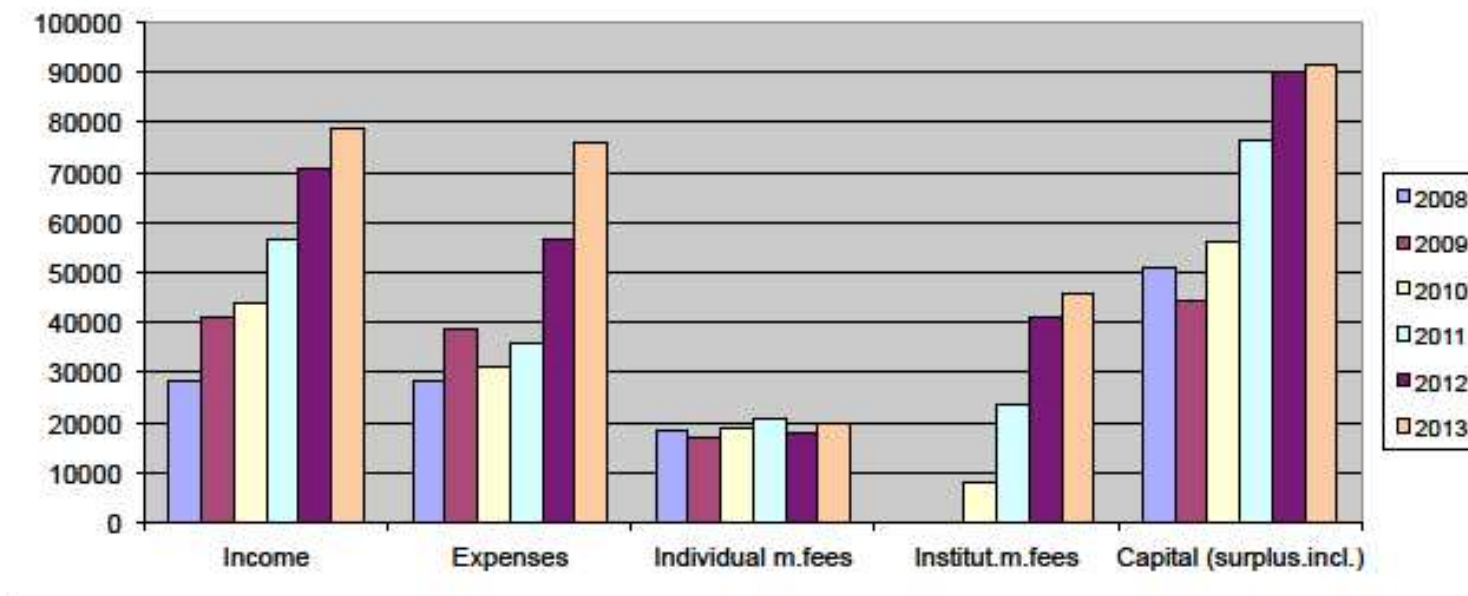


ASSETS	2013	2012
Cash	1'715.38	2'010.27
Current accounts	80'862.98	88'792.06
Savings account	33'997.10	34'483.68
Withholding tax	99.36	82.72
Account receivable	6'483.52	2'500.00
Paid beforehand	0.00	0.00
Total assets	EUR <u>123'158.34</u>	<u>127'868.73</u>
LIABILITIES		
Prepaid membership	7'702.00	11'211.22
Lifetime members	10'743.90	9'776.90
Accounts payable	7'162.04	12'787.75
Travel Grant fund	5'846.47	4'143.17
Capital	74'444.52	54'757.88
Surplus of previous year	14'401.87	20'789.94
Surplus of the year	2'857.54	14'401.87
Total liabilities	EUR <u>123'158.34</u>	<u>127'868.73</u>

Economical Development 2013



EAS 2008 - 2013
Economical development





AUDITORS' REPORT European Astronomical Society Year 2013

We, Sandro Mereghetti (INAF, IASF-Milano), through a teleconference link, and Georges Meylan (EPFL, Lausanne) present at the ISDC Versoix, have reviewed on May 19, 2014 the 2013 accounts of the European Astronomical Society (EAS). We found the accounts in very good order and recommend that the accounts be accepted by the General Assembly of the EAS, as presented.

We acknowledge that membership fees from all countries have been carefully registered according to the member status, country, annual fee, and fiscal year of payment, allowing a full visibility on the income from all members.

We note that the number of both organizational member and individual member affiliations are stable. However, we encourage the Council, the EAS affiliated societies, and the individual active members to continue the effort to promote institutional and individual memberships: only a regular increase of members will allow the Society to have the political and financial means to realize its ambitions.

We thank the EAS for having implemented a new tool for online individual fee

payment, allowing a full visibility on the income from all members.

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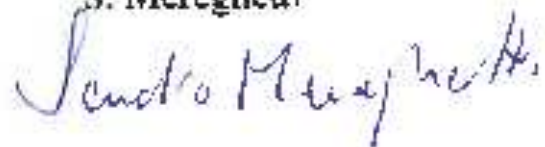
We thank the EAS for having implemented a new tool for online individual fee payments and encourage the members to use it.

In the name of the EAS, we are very grateful to Martine Logossou, Marie-Claude Dunand, and Marc Tuedler for their continuous strong commitment and high-quality work, including new initiatives, all for the benefits of the EAS.



G. Meylan

S. Mereghetti



Versoix, May 19, 2014.



Budget approved by Council for 2015



Income (Euro)

Expenses (Euro)

Individual Members' fees	18000	A- Administration (secr. members & prizes)	
Organisational Members	35000	18000	
Sales	1300	EAS IT services	6000
		EAS Com: leaflet, prizes & postage	7000
Individual members donation for EWASS grants	500	Bank & credit card charges	800
Org. Members donation for EWASS grants (Springer)	3000	Newsletters	3500
EAS Tycho Brahe Prize (Klaus Tschira foundation)	6000	B- EWASS grants (inc.Springer)	3000
		C- EAS Tycho Brahe Prize	6000
EWASS 2015 results	6000	EAS Prizes/travels	5000
From the Capital	3500	D- EAS Working Groups	3000
		EAS Tasks (travel support council & adm)	14000
		Rolle meeting	4000
		Unforeseen exp. & services	3000
Total income	73300	Total expenses	73300
For information:		A= managment+secretariat,	
MERAC EAS prizes	3*20000	B= EWASS, C= EAS Prizes,	
		D= other expenses linked to (new) scientific EAS activities	

EAS Members status 06/12/2013

(by country of residence)

COUNTRY	Number by country	COUNTRY	Number by country
Armenia	17	Republic of Slovakia	7
Australia	1	Romania	11
Austria	12	Russia	101
Azerbaijan	12	Serbia	20
Belgium	14	Slovenia	1
Brazil	1	South Africa	1
Bulgaria	25	Spain	78 77
Canada	2	Sweden	12
Chili	2	Switzerland	51
China P. R.	1	Turkey	3
Croatia	10	Ukraine	84
Cyprus	1	United States of America	19
Czech Republic	10	Uzbekistan	3
Denmark	7		
Estonia	19		
Finland	1		
France	112		
Georgia	3		
Germany	60		
Great Britain	52		
Greece	10		
Guyane Francaise	1		
Hungary	3		
India	1		
Ireland	3		
Italy	44		
Japan	2		
Latvia	3		
Lithuania	5		
Netherlands	30		
Norway	2		
Poland	9		
Portugal	12		
Republic of Korea	1		
		total	879 878

Situation au moment de la
formation 2014





Thank You and Farewell

Welcome to Johan Knapen as treasurer
