

European Astronomical Society
12th Business Meeting
Granada, September 15, 2004

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS.

Since the president H. Butcher was not able to attend the meeting, the meeting was chaired by the secretary J. Krautter. He opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

1) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2) Adoption of the Minutes from the 10th Business Meeting, Porto 2002

No objections against the minutes of the last General Assembly were raised.

3) Report by the President

For the president who was unable to attend J. Krautter gave a report on the activities of EAS during the past year. He thanked the Spanish Society and the Local Organizing Committee for organizing such a good meeting. He pointed out that he is very impressed about the achievements of the Spanish Astronomical Community during the last two decades and welcomed that Spain has taken on negotiations with ESO to become a member. He also expressed his worry about some unpleasant developments, first the menace of closure of the Astronomical Institute in Basel which could, fortunately, be saved due to the strong international protest and second the decision of NASA to not support HST any longer. He also expressed his hope that the situation for basic research will not further deteriorate, as is the case in many countries, but improve in future.

J. Krautter informed the EAS members of the outcome of the elections which had been carried out in the preceding months. Since no other candidates had been nominated by the EAS members, the following candidates suggested by Council were elected:

Yaroslav S. Yatskiv, Ukraine (Vice - President)

Joachim Krautter, Germany (Secretary)

Alvaro Gimenez Canëte, The Netherlands (Councillor)

Sabine Schindler, Austria (Councillor)

Milcho Tsvetkov, Bulgaria (Councillor)

4) National Priorities

The document *European Survey of National Priorities in Astronomy* had sent out to all EAS members. J. Krautter explained to the members that Council will look for a solution to make up for some insufficiencies of this first edition. The members agreed to that proposal.

5) Report by the Treasurer

The treasurer B. Nordström welcomed the new executive secretary Martine Loggosou and thanked the former executive secretary Edith Thomas for the work. She presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as per 31 December 2003 and the *EAS Budget 2005* (see appendix). She also explained the development fund which is used for travel grants for young colleagues and urged the EAS member to give donations to this fund.

The report by the auditors Th. Courvoisier and R. Spurzem was presented by T. Courvoisier. The auditors found the accounts to be maintained in very good order and could find the corresponding justifications. They recommended to accept the accounts as presented by the treasurer with thanks to the treasurer and the office secretary of EAS, E. Thomas.

The accounts were accepted by the membership.

6) Amendments of Constitution and Bye-Laws

The EAS members accepted all changes suggested by Council in a letter to the members unanimously with the exception of one change (application procedure, Bye-Laws II.1) where one member abstained. The new Bye-Laws are attached.

7) EAS Newsletter and Homepage

The webpage manager, M. Dennefeld, asked for more input. He explained that a social page had been added. He asked the members to update their email addresses by themselves. J. Krautter thanked M. Dennefeld for his work for EAS.

The newsletter editor, M. Kontizas, thanked all writers for their contributions and Edith Thomas for her work with the Newsletter. She also told the members that she will retire as Newsletter editor by the end of the year. J. Krautter thanked M. Kontizas for the excellent work she had done for 8 years for EAS.

8) Report on JAD Activities

Nobody from JAD was present.

9) South-Eastern Branch

M. Stavinschi gave a detailed report on the activities of the South-Eastern Branch of EAS which was set up in October 2000. It consists of the following countries: Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine, Greece, Turkey which are - with the exception of the latter two - still faced with an entirely special situation. Consequently, the common idea is to find first the solutions at home and then to resort to the international bodies. They are united in the first place by the difficulties they encounter, especially the brain drain, as well as by the geographic proximity which facilitates their exchanges and their common observation and research programs. So far two regional reunions

have been organized ("Solar Researches in the SEE Countries: Present and Perspectives", 2001, Bucharest; "New Results in Stellar Physics, 2002, Timisoara; Balkan Astronomical Meeting, Rozhen, 2004), as well as summer schools for the young astronomers from the zone. Solutions have been found: contracts of research associated concluded with the young people who work abroad. New topics are now approached with the supervision of well known specialists from other countries. A novelty has been the setting up of the Sub-Regional European Astronomical Committee within the framework of the UNESCO-ROSTE funded Project Enhancing Astronomical Research and Observation in SEE and Ukraine, which had its first reunion in Bucharest, in May 2004. The program of this Committee helps that the cooperation of the astronomers from this part of Europe will be beneficial both for the promotion of Astronomy here, as well as for the creation of the conditions for an integration of these countries into Europe as fast as possible.

11) **Next JENAM**

J.-P. Swings invited EAS to hold JENAM 2005 in Liege from July 4-8, 2005.

12) **Any Other Business**

J. Krautter thanked the leaving Council members Anatol Cherepashckuk, M. Perryman, M. Shaver, and M. Stavinschi.