

European Astronomical Society

15th Business Meeting
Yerevan, August 21, 2007

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The Session was opened by the President at 14h05.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The assembly did not raise any points for item 8 (Other Business), and the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 14th Business, Meeting, Prague, 2006

The minutes from the 14th Business Meeting in Prague, 2006 were adopted without objections.

3. Report by the President

The President presented his report. It was his first year in business; 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 Councilors).

The European half-day in Prague was a success.

Thanks have to be extended 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. As a consequence, EAS Council has to consider ways to improve JENAMs in the coming years.

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 6 of the Agenda refers).

The finances are in a stable situation, although at a low level, with only about 920 members. The EAS needs more members: if each actual member would convince only one person to join as new member, this would already be very valuable!

The EAS regrets not to be involved in ASTRONET, 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 5 refers).

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.

No questions were raised by the participants present.

4. Report by the Treasurer

The treasurer A. Dutrey presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as by December 31st, 2006 and the *EAS Budget 2008* (see Appendix 1).

A message was sent to the National Societies, encouraging them to pay the fees by bank transfer.

Since none of the Auditors was present, the Auditor's report was read by the treasurer (see Appendix 2).

Some questions were raised by the members:

- Why is the capital so large? The President answered that this was only a transition phase. The society needs a reserve of 1 to 2 years of operations, but more activities are planned for the near future, so that the capital will indeed decrease.
- The amount of money allocated to setting up and maintaining the EAS Web pages seemed to be small, in view of their importance. Council agrees with that, and steps are taken to improve this (see point 8 of the agenda).
- Some members felt that the cost of the Newsletter was exceedingly high in proportion to the Society's budget, partly due to postage, and it was questioned why it could not be distributed electronically? The President answered that a paper-version Newsletter was still preferred by a large number of members and it was actually a high-visibility item for the Society. It was pointed out that the Society was lacking at the moment in its contact with the community, so it wasn't the moment to drop one of the few communication tools we have. Distribution via electronic means may be envisaged later, once the activity of the society is reinforced.

The budget was approved unanimously by the assembly, in accordance with the recommendations by the auditors.

5. Proposal for an EAS prize

The proposal to create an EAS prize was presented in detail (see Appendix 3). Discussions with sponsors are going ahead to subsidize this prize, but if they are not successful, the EAS intends to go ahead with the prize but giving no money. The proposed name is the "Tycho Brahe Prize". No objections were raised and this initiative was warmly welcomed.

6. EAS Meeting with Affiliated Societies, Leiden, 21–23 January 2008

The reason for inviting the Affiliated Societies to a meeting were presented. No objections were raised by the Assembly.

7. 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.

8. Any Other Business

The President mentioned a few issues currently going ahead:

- The EAS Web is presently hosted in Paris, whereas the Secretariat is in Geneva. This creates problems as two separate data bases need to be kept synchronized. In a drive to unify the databases, the EAS-Web pages will be moved to Geneva in the near future. The President thanked Michel Dennefeld, the Webmaster, for his dedicated efforts to develop the Web and for maintaining the mailing system over the last 10 years and asked for input from members about the Web. No questions were raised.
- Next year elections to partly renew the composition of Council will again take place. A nominating committee will be appointed for that purpose.
- The status of the EAS Newsletter was briefly presented and thanks were extended to Vassilis Charmandaris, the Editor. No questions were raised.
- JENAM 2009 is planned for April 19 to 24 at the University of Hertfordshire, jointly with the annual meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society (see www.jenam2009.eu). Although the JENAM 2009 falls unusually early, this is nonetheless convenient for 2009 as the IAU General Assembly will take place during the summer of that year.

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

Appendices:

- **Appendix 1:** *Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account* as by December 31st, 2006 and the *EAS Budget 2008*
- **Appendix 2:** Auditor's report
- **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		7123.96

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Logossou', is written over a horizontal line.

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
Total assets	EUR 71'464.89

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
	48'500.06
Total liabilities	EUR 71'464.89

Geneva, March 23 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Logossou', is written over a horizontal line.

Martine Logossou
Executive secretary

European Astronomical Society

Proposed budget for 2008

Income (Euro)		Expenses (Euro)	
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	
Total income	28.500	Unforeseen exp.	400
		Total expenses	28.500

Appendix 2

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, Georges Meylan and Rainer Spurzem, have looked at the 2006 accounts of the European Astronomical Society on March 26, 2007 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 following our previous recommendation the accounts of 2006 are kept in EUR

We note significant progress in the efficiency of collecting of membership fees. Nevertheless this does remain a serious problem

We acknowledge that membership fees for all European countries have been checked according to our previous recommendation and encourage the council to continue this policy.

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

G. Meylan



R. Spurzem



Versoix, March 26, 2007

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 31st 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.