

European Astronomical Society

17th General Assembly
Hatfield, April 21, 2009

Draft Minutes

Attendance: Name list available on request from EAS

The Session was opened by the President at 17h50.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the 16th General Assembly, Vienna, 2008

The minutes from the 16th General Assembly, Vienna, 2008, were adopted unanimously.

3. Report by the President

The president started with a vote of thanks to the local organizers for an extremely exciting Euroean Week of Astronomy & Space Science. The very high number of 1100 participants is a big success.

He confirmed that the proposed changes of the Constitution and the Bye-Laws were approved by the membership ballot. They have therefore now come into force.

The president mentioned the EAS is participating in the IYA2009 as Organizational Associate and by the supporting national projects via grants.

The president informed Council that Thierry Courvoisier, one of the Vice-Presidents, had given notice of his desire to take a sabbatical leave from July 2009 onwards and therefore will step down from Council. He thanked Thierry for his excellent work for and strong commitment to the society. He then welcomed the new Vice-president, Martin Huber, who was nominated by Council to replace the leaving Vice-President Thierry Courvoisier for the duration of his term.

He continued by listing several initiatives and future plans:

- EAS Council will prepare a brochure highlighting the role EAS plays in European astronomy and the benefits that EAS membership brings (it will be based on a poster which is available electronically from the EAS Web under “Purpose of the Society”).
- Once the brochure is ready, a membership campaign will be initiated.
- Negotiations have commenced with EPS to set up a Joint Division for Solar Physics.

The following comment was raised:

Jan Palouš expressed disappointment that attendance to the GA is generally low. Suggestions on how to improve this are solicited.

4. Report by the Treasurer

The treasurer, Anne Dutrey, presented the *Consolidated Balance Sheet* and the *Profit and Loss Account* as by December 31st, 2008 and the *EAS Budget 2010* (see Appendix 1). The latter was presented for information, it having been approved earlier during the EAS Council meeting.

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, Martine Logossou and the ISDC staff, Marie-Claude Dunand and Mathias Beck, for their excellent job.

The following questions and comments were raised by the members:

- It was questioned if in this age of electronic communication a hardcopy Newsletter was still the most appropriate format. After some discussion it was agreed that for the immediate future a hardcopy would be maintained, but that this is under continuous review.
- A member enquired about the nature of the JENAM grant; it was explained that EAS acted as underwriter on a shared risk basis to the JENAM in Vienna and that this was a conservative estimate of our liability.
- It was furthermore explained that the webservices and administration provided by the ISDC amount to more than the listed expense and that these services were provided to EAS as a contribution in kind.

Anne Dutrey closed the session by showing the status of the membership as of April 2009 (Appendix 2).

5. Astroland initiative

As Thierry Courvoisier had to leave, he briefly summarized the status of the EAS initiative to survey the European astro-political landscape. This will now be pushed forward by Martin Huber, who replaces Thierry on Council.

6. Report by the Secretary

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

- edited and distributed 4 EAS e-News issues since September 2008 or a frequency of 1 per 1.5 month,
- sent out and administered the mail ballot of changes to Constitution and Bye-Laws,
- disseminated a Press Release on the award of the EAS Tycho Brahe prize and sent out the call for the Tycho Brahe prize,
- continued his attempts to improve the communication among the EAS, its Affiliated Societies and its members, by means of generic e-mail addresses,
- negotiated with IYA2009 membership by the EAS, as Organisational Associate,
- sent out the call for EAS-IYA2009 grants and served on the grant committee,
- and for a substantial fraction of his time has been involved in the preparations of this year's European Week of Astronomy & Space Science (JENAM2009).

The following question was raised: how many nominations were received for the Tycho Brahe Prize? The President answered that in 2008 there were 10, and in 2009 there were 5 nominations.

The President thanked the Secretary for his hard work and especially for his role in the organization of this year's JENAM.

7. JENAM 2010, Lisbon, Portugal

JENAM 2010 will be held from 6-10 September in Lisbon, Portugal.

Upon invitation by Alexander Stepanov, JENAM 2011 will be held during the 1st week of July in St. Petersburg, Russia.

8. EAS-IYA activities

The President reminded all that the EAS is now an Organisational Associate of IYA2009.

Anne Dutrey pointed to the website of EAS where links are provided to the projects EAS is supporting with grant money.

9. Report by the Sub-Regional European Astronomical Committee (SREAC)

The report by SREAC was presented by Magda Stavinschi.

10. Any Other Business

As no further questions were raised, the President closed the session, thanking all attendants for their participation, at 19h15.

Appendix 1: Profit and Loss Account and Consolidated Balance Sheet as per December 31st, 2008



COMPARISON - PL & BUDGET IN EUR

As per December 31 2008

INCOME	PL as of 12.08	08 Budget
Membership fees	18'579.17	17'100
Sales	1'300.00	1'300
Interests	472.92	
Travel grant donation 2008	482.00	600
Donation (Tycho Brahe Prize)	6'000.00	
Transfer from travel grant funds (liabilities)	1'500.00	1'500
Transfer from capital	0	8'000.00
Total Income	EUR 28'334.09	28'500
EXPENSES		
Newsletters 35-36 (production and mailing)	5'337.65	6'300
Support administration & services	6'122.82	6'000
Postage & office material	2'045.29	1'300
Meetings & travel	1'552.38	9'500
Credit card commissions and bank charges	830.06	600
Grants for Jenam	3'362.00	4'000
Grants to aff.sties for Leiden part.	2'500.00	0
Web page	408.19	400
Others expenses	80.91	400
Tycho Brahe Prize	6'000.00	0
Total Expenses	EUR 28'239.30	28'500
Result of the year (profit)	EUR 94.79	

Geneva, April 8 2009


 Martine Logossou
 Executive secretary



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET IN EUR
As per December 31 2008

ASSETS	2008
Cash	1'567.02
Current accounts	15'070.90
Savings account	45'561.18
Withholding tax 2008	165.49
Account receivable	2'178.00
Paid beforehand	4'000.00
Total assets	EUR <u><u>68'542.59</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Prepaid membership	4'020.78
Lifetime members	10'738.90
Accounts payable	2'467.23
Travel Grant Fund	134.96
Capital	47'595.34
Capital of previous year	3'490.59
Surplus of the year	94.79
Total liabilities	EUR <u><u>68'542.59</u></u>

Geneva, April 8 2009



Martine Logossou
Executive secretary

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, Michel Grenon and Georges Meylan, have looked at the 2008 accounts of the European Astronomical Society, on April 20, 2009 at Geneva Observatory, Sauverny (Switzerland). We found the accounts in very good order and clearly presented. Thus, we recommend that the accounts be accepted as presented by the General Assembly.

We acknowledge that membership fees from all countries have been carefully accounted according to member status, annual country fee and fiscal year of payment, for either direct contributions or through affiliated societies, allowing a full visibility on the income from members. Although this task is rather heavy, we encourage the council to pursue this policy.

We note that the Travel grant Fund is too low to cover the grants for which it was created. We suggest a limited recapitalisation from the society fortune.

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



Michel Grenon



Georges Meylan