



# ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

## MINUTES

### OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AEGS

**HELD IN TORINO (ITALY)**

**Tuesday, 20 September 2005 at 17:00**

**Present:**

<b>Prof. F. CARRARO</b>	<b>(FC)</b>	<b>President of AEGS Italian Geol. Society</b>
<b>Dr. M. GIARDINO</b>	<b>(MG)</b>	<b>Secretary of Organising Committee, Italian Geol. Society</b>
<b>Prof. C. BARTOLINI</b>	<b>(CB)</b>	<b>MAEGS-14 President, Italian Geol. Society</b>
<b>Dr. J. WIEGAND</b>	<b>(JW)</b>	<b>AEGS Secretary German Geol. Society</b>

**Other EC Members:**

<b>Prof. V. HÖCK</b>	<b>(VH)</b>	<b>Austrian Geological Society</b>
<b>Prof. I. FOUNTOULIS</b>	<b>(IF)</b>	<b>Greek Geological Society (non voting representative)</b>
<b>Dr. E. KADASTIK</b>	<b>(EK)</b>	<b>Estonian Geological Society</b>
<b>Dr. T. NIELD</b>	<b>(TN)</b>	<b>Geological Society of London</b>
<b>Prof. C. IONESCU</b>	<b>(CI)</b>	<b>Romanian Geological Society</b>
<b>Dr. M. IVANOV</b>	<b>(MI)</b>	<b>Czech Geological Society</b>
<b>Prof. S. PAVLIDES</b>	<b>(SP)</b>	<b>Greek Geological Society (proxy for P. Marinos)</b>
<b>Dr. R. RAUDSEP</b>	<b>(RR)</b>	<b>Estonian Geological Society</b>
<b>Dr. V. STEINBACH</b>	<b>(VS)</b>	<b>Vice President of AEGS German Geol. Society</b>

## **1. WELCOME**

JW thanked the local organisers for their efforts in arranging such a successful meeting and welcomed all the delegates. New nominated EC members included Dr Martin Ivanov from Brno (Czech Republic), who introduced himself to the meeting. A CV is attached to the minutes. From Greece, JW welcomed Paul Marinos's official representative, Prof. Spiros Pavlidis of the Geological Society of Greece. JW also welcomed one other observer from Greece, Prof. Ionnis Fountoulis. There were no changes to the Agenda.

## 2. APOLOGIES

### Apologies received:

- J. Halmai (Hungary)
- G. Röhling (Germany)
- T. Peryt (Poland)
- R. Rocha (Portugal)

### Apologies not received: none

Four members of the Committee were therefore missing.

## 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (FIRENZE)

The Minutes of the previous EC meeting (24 August 2004, Firenze) were unanimously **approved** without alteration.

## 4. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

JW reported that M. Ivanov had joined in place of M. Novak. Except MN there were no other members leaving the EC board. JW announced that G. Röhling would be asked to retire from the EC so that Germany would have only one representative (VS) on the EC in future.

Copies of the membership list of AEGS and the EC membership list were circulated and members of the EC asked to communicate any alterations to the Secretary (attached to the minutes). JW said he would pursue the Geological Society of Serbia Montenegro to determine if (previously expressed) interest in joining still applied. The EC **approved** unanimously the accession of Martin Novak as the representative of the Czech GS.

## 5. CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP

No changes were reported.

## 6. FINANCIAL REPORT 2004

JW reported that the accounts had been scrutinised by VH and VS. VH summarised the financial accounts for the committee and showed a balance sheet with an auditor's report (attached to the minutes). VH reminded delegates that payments should be made (especially from outside the Eurozone) in terms that deliver the correct amount to AEGS (bearing the cost of conversion themselves). He also asked that payments are made in time and regularly.

VH formally commended the statements to the EC, signed by VH and VS. The Committee **accepted** the financial report presented by VH. JW reminded Estonia that for the next two years they were exempt from payment, and that Italy would henceforth resume payments.

## 7. ACTUAL STATUS OF MAEGS-14

FC reported that 180 participants had turned up from 25 countries. A book of abstracts, with maps, books and papers as well as a field trip guide had been prepared to an extremely high standard. The Secretary proposed a further vote of thanks to the local organizers, which was **passed** unanimously.

## 8. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF AEGS

### *MAEGS 15 (Estonia, 2007)*

JW said the three important things to be decided today were the theme of the meeting, the venue and the date. RR addressed the meeting, and began by thanking his Italian colleagues for their work which provided a worthy model for Estonia. He introduced his colleague EK, who worked in the Estonian GS for 12 years, and subsequently Tallinn University; and has also worked in the Estonian Ministry of Environment. EK made a presentation about the geography, geology and history of Estonia. She described preliminary proposals for the meeting, including its structure, main scientific themes, and the relationship of these to the principal geo-economic concerns of Estonia and the other Baltic States - including their effects on the environment. The proposed title of the meeting was *European Georesources*.

RR noted that "georesources" was rather novel as a term, but it was used because the organisers wished to include discussions on oil shales, lignite and peat which are of great importance to many countries in the region and beyond.

JW said he thought the plan was a good one, but that the title needed a sexier subtitle. CB said that it might be a better idea not to limit the discussion to "European georesources", because the present MAEGS had attracted people from all over the world. It would be enriching to hear presentations from other areas of the world. If we were to stick to the theme Georesources, it might be hard to justify the inclusion of stratigraphy and geological history of the area, which would be a pity. He suggested that the first day, half a day is given over to the main facts of the geology of Estonia so that the attendees get a good idea of the context.

IF said he felt the topics should be extended to cover things of more general interest, but he was assured that the proposal details were highly preliminary, intended to indicate the theme's application within Estonia. VS said that social and economic aspects should be included in a special session and that this should be evident from the title. He agreed that at the moment it looked a little too parochial; to attract an audience the wider implications should be made more obvious.

The EC agreed on the title *Georesources and public policy: research, management, environment*.

There then followed a general discussion on possible topics for inclusion as sessions to maximise attendance. CI suggested that members of the EC should be encouraged to send in suggestions by email. The meeting basics should be prepared in the remaining months of this year. The EC Secretary would meet with RR tomorrow to work on refining the session topics.

JW asked about the venue. RR said discussions on the venue had been discussed at the Estonian Geological Society, and the verdict was that Tallinn was the only practical option, with excursions, with three days' congress (two if contributions dictate) followed by two days' excursion. Provisional date c. 16 September 2007, but RR was asked to research any potential conflicts and to communicate with the EC. IF said that there should be an initiative to support attendance by young scientists' attendance.

**Action: RR & EK**

## **VENUE FOR MAEGS 16 (2009)**

Prof. Corinna Ionescu offered to host the MAEGS 16 in Romania. Proposed title: *Geology today: education, science, natural resources and environment*

IF made a proposal from the Geological Society of Greece, on the basis that it was time to move south, and JW invited both CI and IF to bring presentation to the next meeting.

### **9. BIENNIAL AEGS MEDAL**

TN summarized the idea, which was discussed during the EC meeting in Florence and gave the background of the organisation, management and the costs of the biennial award. The award (a 3'' bronze medal engraved with the name of the laureate) will be given biennial to a geoscientist for outstanding achievements in the field of international relations in Earth Science. The award is named for Prof. Percival Allen FRS, one of the AEGS's founders and will be firstly given during MAEGS-15 (Estonia, 2007). Major advantages of the medal are a better communication with the member societies and to have positive news to communicate to the societies. The invention of this award will raise the profile of AEGS significantly. JW reported that the expenses for the award can be handled without any problem.

The proposal was **agreed** subject to circulation of a CV of Percival Allen to the EC.

**Action: TN**

### **10. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008**

TN gave a very brief overlook about the actual status of the international year and that there are possibilities to get funds for the Estonian meeting. TN will give details to RR.

**Action: TN & RR**

### **11. MATTERS ARISING**

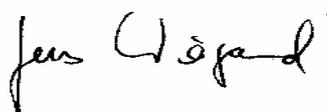
JW said that there was a new IUGS liaison officer Prof. Eldridge Moores. The Association also signed for the establishment of a European Research Council. This was published in the journal *Science*.

### **12. DATES OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NEXT EC MEETING**

JW announced General Assembly tomorrow at 17:10.

The next EC meeting will be in Tallinn in early July 2006, flying in on 6 July, meeting 7 July, 8 July field trip and 9 July departure.

**ENDS: 19:10**



**Dr. Jens Wiegand**  
(AEGS Secretary)

# ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

## STATUTES

1. An Association of European Geological Societies shall be established (AEGS).
2. Membership of the Association is open to all non-governmental societies, institutions and organisations in Europe active on a country-wide scale in the geological or earth sciences, whether covering the entire subject field or specialising in one or more of its branches.

### **3. Purposes and objectives**

3.1 The main purpose of the Association of European Geological Societies is to promote periodic meetings (MAEGS) during which European geologists gather together to discuss aspects of European geology.

At these meetings it is hoped:

3.2 to identify the geological problems of Europe as a whole regardless of regional or national boundaries, language or disciplinary approach;

3.3 to promote investigation and research into European geology;

3.4 to assist in promoting a unified understanding of geology, geophysics and geochemistry of the solid earth of Europe;

3.5 to promote collaboration between workers in the different countries and geological societies of Europe, and in different branches of earth sciences;

3.6 to increase the public understanding of geological knowledge and its use in planning the development of Europe, and for its application in the solution of economic, technological and social problems of the future.

### **4. Executive Committee**

4.1 In order to maintain continuity and to ensure that periodic meetings take place, there shall be an Executive Committee.

4.2 The Executive Committee, which shall be elected at the Plenary Session of the meeting shall comprise:

4.2.1 The President (Chairman of the next meeting) or his/her nominee and the Secretary of the Association.

4.2.2 The two immediate past Presidents or their nominees.

4.2.3 The two Secretaries of the Organising Committee of the last and the next meeting.

4.2.4 Representatives of all the societies due to hold future meetings of the Association of European Geological Societies.

4.2.5 Representatives from other member societies not covered by 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4.

4.2.6 The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt members between plenary sessions of the Association.

4.3 Each voting society (see paragraph 6.1 below) shall have only one vote, even if there be more than one delegate from that Society on the EC. Similarly, each country represented shall have only one vote even if there be more than one delegate from that country.

4.4 The Executive Committee shall co-operate with the Organising Committee of the next meeting and shall continue in existence until the next meeting.

4.5 The Executive Committee will consider, approve or reject invitations by member societies to act as host for the next and future meetings.

4.6 It will consider, approve or reject the outline programme proposed by the Organising Committee for the next meeting.

4.7 In the event of no country offering to be host for a meeting it will request one or more countries to offer invitations.

4.8 It will resolve any contentious matter which may arise in the affairs of the organisation.

## **5. Meetings of the Association of European Geological Societies (MAEGS) and their Organising Committees**

5.1 Meetings of the Association of European Geological Societies, which are recognised as the most important function of the Association, are held as far as possible every 2 years, or 3 or 4 years if the Executive Committee considers that a 2 year interval would produce an undesirable conflict with another international meeting.

5.2 Participation at the meetings is based on individual application and every member of a member society shall have the right to participate.

5.3 Any member society may offer to be the host for the next meeting at any time from the commencement of the current meeting.

5.4 The Executive Committee shall respond to the invitation of a member society to host the next or any future meeting within 6 months of its receipt, and preferably before the end of the current meeting.

5.5 The meetings of the Association of European Geological Societies shall be organised and managed by an Organising Committee set up by the society or societies whose invitation has been accepted by the Executive Committee.

5.6 The composition and working procedures of the meeting Organising Committee will be at its discretion and as it considers most suitable for the country concerned, but it shall include a Chairman and a Secretary.

5.7 The Chairman of the Organising Committee (next President) should normally be nominated by the outgoing President of the current meeting during the opening ceremonies and subject to ratification at the closing Plenary Session. He/she will be the elected President of the Association and act as Chairman of the Executive Committee until the end of the following meeting of the Association.

5.8 The meeting Organising Committee is responsible for the organisation and administration of the current meeting, including the scientific and ancillary programmes, conduct of the meeting, accommodation, publications, excursions and finance.

5.9 The meeting shall include one Plenary Session for a Business meeting at which the affairs of the Association shall be discussed.

## **6. Funding**

6.1 The Executive Committee will establish a membership fee for the Association. The fee will be set in three bands according to membership, as follows:

<b>Band 1</b>	<b>&lt; 500 members</b>
<b>Band 2</b>	<b>500 - 1000 members</b>
<b>Band 3</b>	<b>&gt; 1000 members</b>

Member Societies paying a fee will be entitled to send a voting representative to Executive Committee meetings. Those not paying a fee may send non-voting observers to Executive Committee meetings.

6.2 Member Societies will be expected to pay their annual fee in the first quarter of the year, or as soon as possible thereafter, and must have paid by the end of the year. Each year the Secretary will review the finances of the Association and make a report to the Executive Committee.

6.3 For the assistance given by the AEGS Secretary and the EC-members for the preparation and organisation of the biennial conferences, 10% of the registration fees paid by the participants in the conference must be paid to the AEGS secretariat. In special cases, e.g., when the AEGS conference is combined with another conference, a certain amount of money (to be determined by negotiation with the Secretary) must be paid to the AEGS secretariat.

Jens Wiegand, January 1998.