



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

MINUTES

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AEGS

HELD IN TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Friday, 7 July 2006 at 13:00

Present:

Dr. R. RAUDSEP	(RR)	President of AEGS Estonian Geological Society
Dr. E. KADASTIK	(EK)	Secretary of Organising Committee, Estonian Geol. Society
Dr. J. WIEGAND	(JW)	AEGS Secretary German Geol. Society

Other EC Members:

Prof. G. CARULLI	(GC)	Italian Geol. Society
Dr. M. GIARDINO	(MG)	Italian Geol. Society
Prof. V. HÖCK	(VH)	Austrian Geological Society
Prof. C. IONESCU	(CI)	Romanian Geological Society
Dr. M. IVANOV	(MI)	Czech Geological Society
Dr. T. NIELD	(TN)	Geological Society of London
Dr. T. PERYT	(TP)	Polish Geological Society
Dr. V. STEINBACH	(VS)	Vice President of AEGS German Geol. Society

Non EC Members:

Dr. A. SOESSO	(AS)	Director of Geol. Institute, Tallinn
Dr. O. HINTS	(OH)	Estonian Geol. Society
Dr. D. KALJÖ	(DK)	Estonian Geol. Society Scientific Committee Chair, MAEGS15

1. WELCOME

The EC was welcomed to Estonia by AEGS President Rein Raudsep, and to the Institute by its Director Alvar Soesso, and by Dimitri Kaljö, Chair of the MAEGS15 Scientific Committee.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received:

J. Halmai (Hungary) has now retired. A new representative from Hungary would be appointed. Halmai sent his best wishes to the Committee for the future. The EC thanked Janosz for his good work and wished him well in his retirement. F. Carraro had also retired and had sent B. Carulli in his place, for this one meeting. Prof. Wesel is now President of the Italian Society, and Marco Giardino would henceforth be the permanent Italian representative. G. Röhling (Germany), who was in the Secretary of the Organizing Committee of MAEGS-13, apologized.

Absent:

P. Marinos (Greece) had not contacted the Secretary, who had also received no reply concerning the Greek bid for hosting MAEGS16. R. Rocha (Portugal) had not informed the Secretary, that he will not participate.

Four members of the Committee were therefore missing.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (TURIN, 2005)

The minutes (previously circulated) were approved without amendment. MG presented a brief report of MAEGS14. He thanked the meeting's promoters and sponsors (especially ARPA Piemonte), and members of its scientific committee, especially Profs. Bartoli and Carraro. Over 200 attendees represented 28 nationalities. A total of 68 posters and 38 talks were presented, from 21 nations. 79 participants went on field excursions. The full report of the meeting was left for the organisers of MAEGS15. A CD Rom of all oral presentations was presented to the AEGS archive. MG thanked Professor Carraro, the outgoing representative of Italy. JW thanked MG on behalf of AEGS for organising the most successful MAEGS to date.

4. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

The list of members of the EC was circulated and corrections received. Outgoing members were: J Halmai (Hungary), and G Röhling (Germany). Regarding the persistent absences of R. Rocha (Portugal), the meeting was reminded that two consecutive non-attendances at EC meetings rendered forfeit any country's seat on the EC. The EC decided however that the Secretary should write urgently to the President of the Portuguese Society, pointing out Prof. Rocha's frequent non-appearances, and asking him if the Society would care to appoint another more reliable attendee, in his place. If no reply or no alternative representative is received, the EC decided with regret that Portugal's seat would be forfeit and offered to another fee-paying member of AEGS instead. VH suggested that Estonia or Croatia might be approached – also France, whose new President did seem to be taking a renewed interest in AEGS (**Action JW**).

M. Ivanov will also write to the Slovakian Society to ask if they would be interested in paying dues to AEGS, copying to the Secretary (**Action MI**). JW emphasized that the most cost-effective tactic was to concentrate on big, well-organised societies like France and Spain and encourage them to keep up their paying membership. Small societies lacked continuity (as did many big ones!). The list was **approved**.

5. CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP

Following the above discussion it was noted that there were no changes to the AEGS membership to report.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT 2005

VH presented the report of the auditors (V. Hoek and V. Steinbach), which was circulated together with the accounts for the last Financial Year. The report was **accepted**. The EC thanked the auditors, who thanked JW for his diligent accounting.

A copy of the auditors' report and accounts is appended to these minutes.

A short discussion ensued on how best to promote awareness of AEGS within individual countries, especially those in which the national geological society – the AEGS adhering body - may not be the most appropriate way of contacting the necessary audience – e.g., engineering geologists in nations where their organisation is a separate entity. The meeting decided that all members of AEGS should be encouraged to cascade the information they receive about AEGS activities, and MAEGS-15 in particular, to the appropriate organisations in their own country (**Action all**).

7. MAEGS-15 – REPORT ON PROGRESS

RR, EK, DK and OH presented a report on progress towards MAEGS-15. The Geological Society of Estonia, and the Technical University of Tallinn would organise. One commercial sponsor had also been found. Dates were as follows:

- • Sept 06 – First Circular
- • April 07 – Second Circular
- • May 31 – Deadline, registration & Abstracts
- • Sept 16-18 – Technical Sessions
- • Sept 19, 20 – Excursions

Deadline for MSS submission would be September 20 2007, for publication in the Estonian Journal of Earth Sciences, special issue. Participants to arrive Sunday 15 September 2007; the Plenary Session would take place on the 16th.

Registration Fee €150, rising to €200 for late or on-site registration. Excursions would cost €100. There would be a reduced registration fee (at the discretion of the organisers and under guidance of the EC) of €100, for persons of limited means or from countries with weak currencies. This fee would turn a surplus at participant rates of about 80. The economic model for the conference was therefore conservative.

The main session titles were explained. All members of the EC were asked to suggest names for keynotes in each (**Action all**). The EC agreed that of the four themes, priority would be given to Sustainable use and management of georesources, and Formation and geology of mineral resources; these would take precedence over Quaternary and Environmental Geology, and Local regional geology.

All members of the EC were urged to register on-line at the meeting web site, of which the EC was treated to a guided tour (**Action All**). The EC complimented OH on the quality and design of the Web site. EK's PowerPoint presentation on MAEGS-15 would be PDF's and sent round to the EC members (**Action EK**). The PDF would also be put on the Web Site (**Action EK, OH**). The EC congratulated the Estonian organisers on the excellent progress demonstrated and on the promise showed for a worthy successor meeting to MAEGS-14.

8. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF AEGS (MAEGS-16)

CI presented a bid to host the MAEGS-16 in the University of Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoka, Romania, in 2009. The working title of the conference was "*Geology Today – education, science, application*". Proposed sessions were: *Education in geology, Deep crustal processes, Sedimentary processes, Mining and related environmental problems, and Geology and Cultural Heritage*. It was proposed to hold the meeting unusually in July instead of September, to avoid conflicting meetings. The organisers believed this would be a successful innovation, and after some discussion the EC **agreed**.

A discussion ensued about the proposed themes, at which the EC expressed the view that the themes as presently drafted were very broad, perhaps too broad, and that the meeting would be wise to concentrate on a **primary** theme encompassing *Geology and cultural heritage* (WH Sites, Geopark initiatives etc) and *education in geology*.

TN pointed out however that, at this early stage, the only matter before the EC was whether to accept the proposal based on the presentation, or not. Discussion on the themes and other details could be left to the next EC. The Romanian offer was then gratefully **accepted**. JW noted the absence of a Greek bid, and said he would encourage the Greek Society to make a renewed proposal next year, for MAEGS-17.

9. BIENNIAL PERCIVAL ALLEN MEDAL - REPORT

TN circulated the first of the new 10 Percival Allen Medals of the AEGS. This would be awarded in Tallinn at MAEGS-15. The meeting discussed the proposed timetable for submission of names for consideration by the Award Committee. It was noted that this first award had a foreshortened timetable compared with that which would attend subsequent year awards. It was therefore decided to modify the call for nominations to reflect this change (**Action JW**).

AEGS Meetings take place in **odd** numbered years; EC meetings in **even**. Therefore the call for nominations will always go out in an even-numbered year.

The present call would go out to all immediately, and be placed on the AEGS and MAEGS-15 Web sites. All were asked to ensure that it received maximum publicity in every country. Nominations for the first medal, which could be for any person from any country in the world, and be made by any person from any country, would be received up to 30 November 2006, and the Awards Committee would meet early in 2007 to decide a winner. This would give the recipient time to make proper travel and other diary arrangements.

The EC **agreed** that the Awards Committee would consist of Jens Wiegand, Corinna Ionescu and Ted Nield. The meeting would take place in Romania, in early 2007.

In subsequent even years, nominations would be invited in even years with a deadline of September 30. JW will send a revised Call for nominations to all AEGS members urgently (**Action JW**).

10. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007-2009

TN circulated an up-to-date report of affairs at the International Year. He said that all being well, MAEGS-15 (which should immediately and at no cost affiliate to the International Year by affixing the IY logo to all its materials - **Action TN, OH and MAEGS15 organisers**) would stand a good chance of receiving support to help attendance by geologists from countries with weak currencies, under the outreach programme.

The Secretary should therefore fill in an Expression of Interest form now from the Year Web Site, and lodge with the Geological Society of London, which was currently acting as the Year's unofficial secretariat (**Action JW**).

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

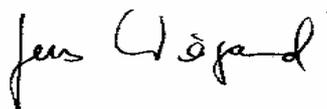
There was no other business.

12. DATES OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NEXT EC MEETING

- • EC – **17 September 2007 16:00.**
- • General Assembly **18 September 2007, noon**

There being no further business, the Secretary thanked the EC and the meeting was closed.

ENDS: 17:07



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:

Band 1	< 500 members
Band 2	500 - 1000 members
Band 3	> 1000 members

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.