



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

MINUTES

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AEGS

HELD IN TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Monday, 17 September 2007 at 16:00

Present:

Dr. R. RAUDSEP	(RR1)	President of AEGS Estonian Geological Society
Dr. E. KADASTIK	(EK)	Secretary of Organising Committee Estonian Geological Society
Dr. J. WIEGAND	(JW)	AEGS Secretary German Geol. Society

Other EC Members:

Prof. V. HÖCK	(VH)	Austrian Geological Society
Dr. M. GIARDINO	(MG)	Italian Geol. Society
Dr. T. NIELD	(TN)	Geological Society of London
Prof. C. IONESCU	(CI)	Romanian Geological Society
Prof. R. ROCHA	(RR2)	Portuguese Geological Society
Dr. V. STEINBACH	(VS)	German Geol. Society

1. WELCOME

JW thanked the local organisers for their efforts in arranging such a successful meeting and welcomed all the delegates. There were no changes to the Agenda.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received:

- M. Ivanov (Czech Republic)

Three other members of the Committee were missing.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the previous EC meeting (7 July 2006, Tallinn) had been previously circulated and were approved *nem. con.*

4. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

Finnish Geological Society has expressed interest and is paying subscription but they have not yet sent a representative.

A letter had been received from the French organisation (Alain Blicq, CNFG) offering to send a representative, and suggested Benôit Deffontaines, former AEGS secretary. A letter from Benoit, received since, confirmed that the SGF still did not wish to send a representative, but he anticipated that it might modify its stance in future.

The EC agreed actively to maintain approaches to all non-active members, especially Finland, France and Spain, urging their participation. **Action JW.** Ted Nield would approach Ed de Mulder to encourage the Dutch Society to become a full paying member. **Action TN**

VH asked RR1 if he could persuade the Portuguese Society could pay a subscription. . The fee would be 100 Euros. **Action RR2.**

There was no change in the EC membership.

5. CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP

No changes were reported.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT 2006

JW reported that the accounts had been scrutinised by VH and VS. VS summarised the financial accounts for the committee and showed a balance sheet with an auditor's report (attached to the minutes). VS reported the account stood at a positive balance of 1075.31 Euros, with no outstanding liabilities. The report of the auditors was accepted unanimously.

7. ACTUAL STATUS OF MAEGS-15

RR1 reported that 80 participants representing 17 countries attended the meeting. There were 40 presentations and 14 posters. 38 participants wanted to go on excursions. Excellent abstract and field guidebooks had been produced, to an unusually high standard. The EC agreed and offered their congratulations and thanks to the hosts. RR1 said that there had been 10 persons on the organising committee and he thanked all of them, especially Olle Hints for his work on all aspects of the conference, especially the website. He also thanked Heikki Bauert for his help with writing and photography. RR1 thanked all of the EC committee for their assistance. JW congratulated the organisers on the professional standard of the corporate design for the meeting. The EC joined in thanking the organisers.

8. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF AEGS

MAEGS 16: Geology for society: education and cultural heritage (Romania, 2009)

CI gave a short presentation about progress to date. The meeting is proposed to take place from **9 to 13 July 2009** in Cluj Napoca. This will avoid a clash with another important regional meeting in September. Also the weather is usually good about then, which is the start of the holiday period and there are not many conflicting meetings.

The meeting would divide its attention between education on the one hand and cultural heritage on the other. The President of the scientific committee would be Prof. Bucur from Cluj (resp. for education) and Prof. Kryzsa from Poland as Vice President (resp. for geoheritage). Two groups of conveners had been created to deal with submissions in each of the two main themes and had been chosen for their expertise in the respective areas.

CI will be president of the Organizing Committee but she said that the burden of the work would fall on the Secretariat of 3 and a further membership of 3. VP would be S. Filipescu. CI said that the organising Committee had in view to invite 4 keynote speakers in each stream. TN offered to approach Chris King as a speaker in the Education stream. **Action TN**

A two-day field excursion including a night in accommodation at Deva was also described. The proposed timetable of events included first circular by 1 January 2008. CI reported that she intended to allow extended abstracts, as this might be more attractive to participants. Registration would be in the region of 150 Euros for normal registration, with 75 Euros for students.

VS suggested that the programme might benefit from input from employers. TN suggested Paul Wood of Shell.

JW suggested that the meeting could be combined with a local event or meeting being held in Romania. This might help to attract more local participants. CI said that the Cluj branch of the Geological Society of Romania would be meeting then, including teaching staff of the university numbering 24.

JW reminded the EC about a letter from Peter Bobrowsky (IUGS Secretary General) urging cooperation with IGEO and IYPE. Ed de Mulder offered the use of the IYPE logo on the signing of a MoU with the IYPE. CI had subsequently become embroiled with the Romanian National Committee, but this was only a diversion and they proved to be useless. So she will bypass them in future and deal directly with TN and Ed de Mulder. TN said that CI should put in an EoI to the IYPE in the Outreach line, as improving the standard of geoscience teaching in schools is an overt aim of the year.

MAEGS 17 (2011)

JW reported that no venue had yet been offered. CI suggested a joint call for proposals from JW and CI. VH offered to try to persuade the Austrian GS to put in a bid. JW said that this would fit with the intention to alternate MAEGS conference venues between the former "west" and former "east". JW mentioned that Greece had expressed interest but never come forward with a bid. JW will write to Greece, VH to ask the Austrian Society president. **Action JW, VH.**

9. BIENNIAL PERCIVAL ALLEN MEDAL - REPORT

JW described the meeting in Cluj earlier this year at which the 4 proposals were considered (Becker-Platen, Gee, Muhongo, Hoek). Becker-Platen was chosen, though unfortunately he is ill with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy.

The Percival Allen Medal, inscribed for Jens-Dieter Becker-Platen, was circulated by TN. At the closing ceremony TN would read the citation (laudatio) and hand the medal to the AEGS

Secretary for him to convey to the recipient, who was unable to attend MAEGS-16 for health reasons.

10. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007-2009

TN referred the EC to the presentation he gave to the first session of the conference. Fundraising was now rather behind schedule; however the National Committees were proving very useful and many national programmes were being devised to coincide with 2008. He encouraged all the EC members to get their national Societies to be active in this and to use the IYPE logo on all their publications during 2008.

11. MATTERS ARISING

JW reported an email from Eldridge Moores sending his best wishes to our meeting in Tallinn. VH suggested inviting him to Cluj because he might well come!

VS raised the question of the purpose of AEGS in future and a possible revisiting of the AEGS constitution. TN suggested that this issue be remitted to a future agenda perhaps as the main item to allow more time for discussion. This was **agreed**

12. DATES OF NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NEXT EC MEETING

The General Assembly will be held on Tuesday 18 September.

The next EC meetings will be in Cluj Napoca from 26 - 28 June 2008.

ENDS: 19:23



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.

Jens Wiegand, January 1998.