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Report to the EMS Council September 2007

Accreditation Committee

Chair: Howard Lyne (United Kingdom)

1. Mission/goals of the Committee

- To make recommendations to Member Societies of good practice in running Accreditation Schemes and how they may be introduced;
- To make recommendations to Member Societies on Codes of Good Practice and Ethical Behaviour of professional meteorologists;
- To recommend how such Accreditation Schemes and Codes of Good Practice followed by meteorologists of any Member Society, or Associate Member with its headquarters in Europe, may be recognised in any or all European countries.

2. Activities

- 2.1. A summary of the activities of the Accreditation Committee since its establishment was prepared and is attached at Annexe A. This was in response to an action placed on the Chairman at the 16th EC Council meeting following discussion of the Committee's terms of reference.
- 2.2. The Chairman participated in the meeting of the Strategy Implementation Group held in Reading on 27 and 28 June 2007.

Howard Lyne
31 August 2007

Membership of Accreditation Committee

Howard Lyne (Chair, RMetS, United Kingdom)
Sergio Barbosa (APMG, Portugal)
Christophe Billard (SMF, France)
Magne Lystad (FM, Norway)
Marcello Pagliari (UNIMET, Italy)
Manuel Palomares (INM, Spain)
Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, Netherlands)
Dragan Radovanovic (MDS, Serbia)
Peter Rauh (SGM, Switzerland)
Clemens Simmer (DMG, Germany)
Sonja Vidic (HMD, Croatia)
Mark Žagar (SMD, Slovenia)

Annexe A

Activities to date related to accreditation

July 2000

Seminar on Accreditation of Meteorologists in Europe held at Cambridge, UK
Descriptions of accreditation schemes in UK and Germany

September 2001

EMS Council (Budapest)
Establishment of Accreditation Committee (actually Committee on Accreditation and Professional Practices).

April 2002

EMS Council (Paris)
Draft proposal prepared by D Axford, P Ryder and S Cornford put to EMS Council for survey of existing practices in EMS countries. Action on Chairman to seek views of Accreditation Committee members on draft proposal, to prepare job description for consultant prior to tender, and find out relevant EU Commission and Department.

September 2003

EMS Council (Rome)
David Axford (Chair of the Accreditation Committee) reported that funding for the earlier proposal was not available, but that a survey had been conducted among committee members by e-mail. The report summarised the responses so far.

September 2004

Accreditation meeting (EMS 4 Nice)
Discussion of UK and German schemes.
Proposal for meeting of directors of NMSs at Utrecht in 2005
Action on Chairman of Committee to write to presidents of member societies to outline current position and ask for correct protocol for contacting NMS directors regarding the proposed meeting in Utrecht.

December 2004

Letter sent under signature of EMS President (WW) to presidents of member societies.

March 2005

Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium replied to WW's letter to express interest and intention to attend meeting at Utrecht

Summer 2005 (after Council meeting in Athens)

Committee members contacted by e-mail regarding the need for and type of discussion meeting on accreditation at EMS meeting in Utrecht. Only three positive responses so decided that only a short discussion meeting will be fitted into programme

September 2005

Accreditation meeting (EMS 5 Utrecht)
Reported few replies received to letter from WW (actually only the one from Belgium)
UK and German schemes outlined (again) and discussed.
Possibility of EMS involvement in future accreditation of media meteorologists raised.
Meeting concluded "that currently there is no unified situation and that any development will take time".
Action on Chairman to officially inform WMO of activities of Accreditation Committee by writing to Gerald Fleming (not done).

September 2006

Accreditation Meeting (EMS 6 Ljubljana)
Proposal from Eumetcal College for certification of aviation forecasters considered. The proposal was withdrawn by a subsequent meeting of Eumetnet.

Fulfilment of TORs

The report presented to Council in September 2003 and the discussions of current accreditation schemes at the accreditation meetings could be regarded as fulfilling, at least in part, the terms of references (i) and (ii). Terms of reference (iii) and (iv) have not been satisfied.

Terms Of Reference as agreed upon by the council on 27 September 2001:

This Committee shall

(i) carry out a comparison of schemes of accreditation of professional meteorologists in European, and other, countries, and make recommendations to Member Societies of EMS, within eighteen months of being set up, on what constitutes good practice in running schemes of accreditation, and how such good practice may be introduced, particularly with a view to ensuring that meteorologists of any Member Society, or Associate Member with its headquarters in Europe, may operate in any or all European countries

(ii) carry out a comparison of accepted Codes of Practice or ethical codes of behaviour of professional meteorologists in European, and other countries, and make recommendations to Member Societies of EMS, within eighteen months of being set up, on what constitutes an appropriate code, and how such a code or codes may be introduced, particularly with a view to ensuring that meteorologists of any Member Society, or Associate Member with its headquarters in Europe, may operate in any or all European countries

(iii) carry out a review of how other professions control themselves in countries of Member Societies, and elsewhere

(iv) make recommendations, within a period of three years from the setting up of the Committee, on methods other than accreditation and codes of practice, which Member Societies might introduce, particularly with a view to ensuring that meteorologists of any Member Society, or Associate Member with its headquarters in Europe, may operate in any or all European countries.

The Committee shall consist of a representative from each interested Member Society and include at least one EMS Councillor. The Committee Chairman shall be designated by EMS Council for a period of two years in the first instance. He will be eligible for one or more subsequent terms as the EMS Council may decide. The Committee shall conduct its business through correspondence (mainly via e-mail) and such meetings as may be considered necessary.

The chairman shall report to the Council.