



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

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Giuseppe Grandori (Italy), Ali Akbar Moinfar (Iran), Bozidar Pavicevic (Montenegro)
Audit Committee: Emil Sever Georgescu (Romania), Rudolf Heuer (Austria)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Number: 2

Date: May 29, 2011

Place: Istanbul, Turkey

Attendance:

Mihail Garevski, President
Martin Koller, Vice President
Mauro Dolce, Vice President
Atilla Ansal, Secretary General
Andreas J. Kappos, Secretary
Rainer Flesch, Treasurer
Carlos Oliveira
Alain Pecker

Absentee:

Zygmunt Lubkowski
Pierre - Yves Bard, ESC Representative

Prologue:

The second meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering for 2010-2014 Period was held in Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday May 29, 2011 between 10:00 and 17:30 prior to the 7th Turkish National Conference on Earthquake Engineering. The Executive Committee meeting was chaired by the President.

Agenda:

1. *Approval of Agenda*
2. *President's summary concerning Ohrid Conference*
3. *Central Office Activities for 2010-2011 term*
4. *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering*
5. *Task Groups Activities by A.Kappos*
6. *Nominations Committee for the EAGE Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Lectureship for 2012*
7. *Membership proposal by Association for Earthquake Engineering of Bosnia & Herzegovina*
8. *The role and participation of EAGE in EU Projects*
9. *Participation of EAGE in EU team in post-earthquake reconnaissance teams*
10. *Proposal by Mario Lopez for EU involvement*
11. *Next Meeting Location & Miscellaneous*

Item 1: The proposed Agenda of the Meeting was approved by all Executive Committee Members present.

Item 2: The President welcomed the members to the Second Executive Committee Meeting for the 2010-2014 Period and expressed his thanks to all Executive Committee Members for their participation.

He presented a brief summary concerning the 14th European Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Ohrid from August 30 to September 3, 2010. He mentioned about the dedication of local organising committee and once again thanked EAEE Executive Committee Members for their support as International Organising Committee. As announced in the conference web site, out of 1642 abstracts submitted to the Conference, 966 manuscripts were reviewed and accepted. With onsite registration, almost 700 participants were registered. The President presented the statistics of the participants with respect to countries, continents and registration times (early, late, onsite, etc.). Sessions were half full, with quite high number of no-shows. He informed the Committee about the final budget of the Conference and mentioned that approximately 10% of total income was profit. As stated in the Guidelines, 1% of the registration fee of all the participants registered fully will be donated to EAEE.

Andreas Kappos asked about the book sales. The President explained that he has no information from Springer side but for the Conference, 1200 books were ordered. He proposed keynote lectures to be filmed in CD. Secretary General said that it can be done with copyright since the material is in a book. Andreas Kappos supported the idea as it can be good for book selling promotion.

Executive Committee Members discussed shortly the reason why number of registrations was less than expected participants. Martin Koller outlined the possible reason as that Ohrid was not easy to reach. Although the idea of having engineering seismology block was nice, people complained that due to the not easy transportation it was not worth to come for few days. Atilla Ansal stated that the engineering seismology block did not work ideally in ESC General Assembly in held Montpellier. The President concluded his summary expressing that after almost one year has passed; the community is now looking forward to the World Conference.

Executive Committee Member, Carlos Oliveira gave some organisational information to the Committee about the 15th World Conference to be held in Lisbon in 2012. He mentioned about the idea of short registration like 1 or 2 days. 3000 participants are expected and the program will include approximately 800 oral presentations and 13 keynote lectures to be held in 10-12 parallel sessions. In order to avoid no-shows, oral presentation right will be given on the condition that one of the authors confirms participation. E-poster presentations will take place which are in between oral and poster presentations. E-posters can be promoted to oral presentations to reduce possible no-shows. A simultaneous information system will be used to inform the participants about any program changes and replacements. According to the participant's preferences, a program of road map will be supplied. Carlos Oliveira presented the first Newsletter of the 15WCEE 2012 with information about the conference calendar.

Item 3: The Secretary General presented the Report of the Central Office Activities for September 2010 – May 2011 term and summarised the main activities of the Central Office during this period.

Secretary General started by presenting the official approval document of EAEE Statutes signed by the authorities of Turkey. By this approval, the changes in the EAEE Statutes regarding the voting system that the votes of the Delegates of the National Members will be proportional with the number of members of the corresponding National Societies and restoring a Secretary post had been officially approved.

The EAEE incomes and expenditures for 2010 were audited in February 2011 by an officially approved audit company. The Annual Activity and Audit Reports (in Turkish) for 2010 were submitted to the Istanbul Government Authorities. Secretary General presented the Audit Report for 2010 to the Executive Committee. Executive Committee approved the expenditure of 536 € for the Audit report on 21/2/2011.

Secretary General presented the 2010 Review Report prepared and delivered to Turkish Department of Associations. The report includes the Minutes of the Fourteenth General Assembly of the EAEE held in Ohrid submitted with the signed attendance list of participating Delegates and Individual members to report that:

- Presented activity reports for 2006-2010 term and the proposed activity plan for 2010-2014 was approved by the unanimous vote of the Delegates and Members present in the General Assembly.
- Presented financial reports for 2006-2010 period and proposed draft budget for 2010-2014 was approved by the unanimous vote of Delegates and Members present in the General Assembly.
- The results of the election of the Executive Committee, election of the Audit Committee, and election of Honorary Members for 2006-2010 period.

By the Validation team of Research Executive Agency FP7 Support Unit, Central Office was informed that EAEE has been validated under the 7th Framework programme as a 'Private non-profit research organisation'. This validation assures the eligibility of EAEE as a partner in FP7 projects. As a validated organisation, EAEE has to initiate the LEAR (Legal Entity Appointed Representative) for the organisation, so Gökçe Tönük was appointed by the Executive Committee as the LEAR of EAEE until the end of FP7 programme.

The Secretary General informed the Committee about the number of individual and organizational members and presented the related statistics. The number of individual membership has increased to 189 by the end of April, 2011.

Secretary General presented the budget for the term of September 2010-May 2011 given below. In the present situation the incomes and the expenditures were 16,383.08 € and 3,399.81 €, respectively with a balance of 12,983.27 € from which 2,401.00 € is EAEE's recent debt to Springer. The budget was approved by the Executive Committee.

One more time, the Committee is reminded that the role of Rainer Flesch as the Treasurer in the Executive Committee will be full control and justify the expenses of any organisations supported financially by EAEE, rather than to control daily expenses. Executive Committee Member, Alain Pecker corrected the presented budget since transferred cash should not be shown as income for the next year budget, and this warning was recorded by Secretary General.

Secretary General presented a copy of the latest Newsletter (Volume 29 – Number 1) to the Executive Committee Members prepared to be distributed during the 7th Turkish National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, and to all members via email.

The minutes of the 6th Executive Committee Meeting of the 2006-2010 term, General Assembly, Association Council and the 1st Executive Committee Meeting of the 2010-2014 term were approved and signed by all the Executive Committee Members present.

BALANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2010	8,949.48 €	
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Membership fees from		
<i>National Members</i>	2,056.00 €	
<i>Corporate Members</i>	984.00 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic Subs.</i>	2,481.60 €	
<i>Individual Members - Paper Copy Subs.</i>	1,226.00 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic+Paper Copy Subs.</i>	686.00 €	
Secretary of the Central Office		-
Office Expenses		
<i>Auditing Cost</i>		536.00 €
<i>Newsletter printing-Award-Promotion Material</i>		428.12 €
<i>Rate for bank account and Interest</i>		349.69 €
SPRINGER		
<i>Hard Copy</i>		1,336.00 €
<i>Electronic (2010)</i>		750.00 €
SUM	16,383.08 €	3,399.81 €
DIFFERENCE	12,983.27 €	
SPRINGER DEBT (Hardcopy + Electronic 2011)	2,401.00 €	
BALANCE FOR MAY 2011	10,582.27 €	

Item 4: The Secretary General summarised the situation with the Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, BEE. He presented the numbers of submitted, published, in printing, under review, declined and withdrawn manuscripts and compared with the total and summarised the new Special Issue proposals received during this period. He informed the committee about the changes in the Editorial Board.

Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that Springer asked for some adjustments for the membership rates starting as of 2012, such that: The share of Springer will be increased from 174€ to 195€ for Organisational members (print copy), from 46€ to 80€ for national and individual members with paper copy subscription, and from 750€ to 1250€ for electronic member access via the EAEE platform. To compensate new Springer sharing rates Secretary General proposed to adjust the membership fees as 100€ for paper copy subscribed members and 40€ for electronically subscribed members. This change was approved by the Executive Committee.

Item 5: The Secretary General informed the Committee that he sent a letter to all coordinators of the Task Groups, TGs explaining that Andreas Kappos as the Secretary of the Executive Committee will be responsible for the TGs. The Secretary, then, contacted all coordinators before the Executive Committee Meeting and asked for their activity reports. The Secretary A. Kappos presented his report on the "Present state of EAEE TG's", including full data for each group, the activities that Task Groups are expected to carry out according to the EAEE Rules, the situation re. the reports (TG 5, 8 and 11 responded with full reports and TG6 with a short one, TG 2, 3 and 10 responded without a report, while no response was received from TG 7), and his conclusions (TG present state not satisfactory, too few active groups, EAEE TG Rules (2008), although very comprehensive, are currently not implemented by the majority of TG's, Some TG Coordinators, despite being inactive for several years, do not indicate a willingness to step down, with few exceptions) and Recommendations (see below). The current state and situation with the TGs were reviewed based on their reports and plans for the future activities.

The situation of inactive TGs was discussed by the Committee Members. Secretary General pointed that the starting point when TGs had been established was to work together with other

scientists and colleagues. However, nowadays there are a lot more coordination tools that will increase interaction between researchers and scientists like global projects. The suggestions from the Committee Members were as follows: inactive groups should be terminated and each group will be asked to produce at least one deliverable or take a concrete action per term not to be terminated; inactive group coordinators can be changed; there should be efforts to set up small number of TGs with broad scope and general title and to establish temporary groups for specific topics each term; innovative subjects that have future should be chosen as new TG topics; state of art or an overview report of the broad topics of TGs and projects on this topic can be presented in ECEE; keynote lectures from coordinators can be given in ECEE.

The Secretary, Andreas Kappos summarised the agreed results of discussions and suggestions as follows:

- All existing TGs are retained, but
 - Current titles will be slightly modified in consultation with coordinators, whenever appropriate to represent existing fields – research areas.
 - Additional or alternative (co-)coordinators will be appointed to TG3, TG5 and TG9.
 - TGs are renamed to Working Groups, WGs and submit work plans of broader scope for the next term (2010-2014).
- WGs are encouraged to set up Project Teams (PT) dealing with specific topical issues and expected to produce a specific deliverable (such as report and/or book and/or special issue in BEE). These teams will have one or two PT leaders (generally other than the WG coordinator).
- WGs that will not produce specific deliverables like seminars, state-of-the art reports, books, website, special sessions in ECEE and activity reports until the next ECEE (2014) will be terminated and/or their coordinator will be replaced during the last Executive Committee to be held before the 15ECEE.
- One or two new WGs might be launched provided appropriate proposals are submitted by prospective coordinators.

It was also decided that all TG Coordinators should be asked for a list of TG members. It was decided that Secretary should revise the Task Group Guidelines to include an option of establishing Task Project Teams on very special topics and circulate it among the Executive Committee Members for the approval of the Executive Committee.

A new Task Group suggestion was received by Dr. Sandi as an ESC-EAEE joint group named "*Updating of the Concept of Seismic Intensity and of the Intensity Scales*". The Executive Committee reviewed the application and supported the idea as a specific project that may be conducted under TG3. The proposal will be sent to ESC.

Item 6: Executive Committee agreed to appoint the new Awards Committee composed of five members for the selection of the Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture that will be presented during 33rd General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission in Moscow, on probable dates August 19-24, 2012. The second Awards Committee was appointed as composed of A. Ansal, A. Kappos, M. Koller, A. Pecker, and D. Slejko as a member from ESC as the fifth Committee member. It was agreed that nominations shall be requested from all the EAEE members via the EAEE Newsletter and EAEE web pages until the end of 2011.

Item 7: National Membership proposal by Association for Earthquake Engineering of Bosnia & Herzegovina was discussed by the Executive Committee. The Committee reviewed the application whether it has any conflicts regarding the definition of National Membership in the Statutes. Since the previous problem during their first application was resolved, the Committee decided to accept the Membership. The Membership of Association for Earthquake Engineering of Bosnia & Herzegovina was approved by the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

Since it was not possible to establish any communication during the past 16 years, the membership of Cyprus Civil Engineers and Architects Association was suspended to give them some time for possible interaction with the Central Office.

Item 8: The role and participation of EAEE in EU Projects was discussed by the Executive Committee. The main point of discussion was on which type of projects EAEE should be a partner.

Secretary General mentioned about the SERIES project EAEE is already a partner in charge with the networking activities and reminded that EAEE made two efforts both in 2005 and 2006 and submitted Marie Currie Training Course Proposals. Andreas Kappos suggested that EAEE should not be involved in research projects, but only in dissemination and networking projects. Rainer Flesch stated that EAEE should not be involved financially in any projects, and recommended to go under an umbrella of another institution to ease the financial issues of being a partner of any project. Mauro Dolce mentioned some EU projects specific on improving networking, not producing any specific product, also not research projects. The Secretary, Andreas Kappos suggested that EAEE can fit in easily in any projects for NGOs and this option should be searched. The Secretary General recommended the idea of encouraging TGs to write proposals to EU projects which may finance TG activities and also EAEE can support TGs by taking place in dissemination of these projects.

Item 9: Participation of EAEE in EU team in post-earthquake reconnaissance teams was opened to discussion in Executive Committee. Martin Koller mentioned the liability issues and proposed that EU can be convinced to support EAEE for post earthquake activities. Mauro Dolce mentioned that first of all EAEE should decide the aim of the involvement whether as a scientific reconnaissance team or as an advisory team to help EU to take any decisions. He gave the example of L'Aquila Earthquake where MIC (The Monitoring and Information Centre) team of researchers was appointed by European Civil Protection, EU. He also reminded that the details like the list of people ready to go to an earthquake site, the languages they can speak, etc. need to be known for such a reconnaissance study before an event occurs. President, Mihail Garevski stated that since after an earthquake in order to estimate the damage, engineers are required for technical assistance; EAEE should propose some technical support from EAEE experts after civil protection teams which usually do not include civil engineers. Carlos Oliveira pointed out the idea of to be more visible by this kind of involvement and questioned whether EAEE should take that role. He emphasised that EAEE should be more aggressive and have possibility to change the decisions of European Commission. Secretary General supported that EAEE should be in more relation with EU, since it is an umbrella of European Associations. Executive Committee agreed on giving support to EU Commission by reconnaissance after earthquakes to give general idea about damage, situation, and to give advice.

Item 10: Secretary General mentioned about the letter by Mario Lopez regarding EU involvement proposal. In his letter he revealed the lesson learned from the meeting three years ago held in Brussels with several Commission Services to try to promote the EAEE proposals

for the reduction of seismic risk in Europe, which is it is very difficult that any relevant change takes place at EU level unless triggered and supported by the Governments of the Member States. Therefore, it is needed that national Governments put the issue of seismic protection on the European Union agenda which requires lobbying at national level, which may be done by the national associations of EAEE. He gave the example of Portugal, where the Portuguese Association for Earthquake Engineering got a Parliament Resolution after eleven years of lobbying which was approved unanimously by all parties, but has not been implemented by the Government. He asked the question that whether EAEE wants to make an effort to bring this issue to the European agenda or not. If the intention is positive, the national associations of EU Member States should be mobilized to act in coordination with the EAEE Executive Committee, lobbying in their own countries.

Carlos Oliveira explained the situation in Portugal, stating that unfortunately the outcome is a resolution not a decree. Secretary General summarised the outcomes of previous meetings and initiatives especially by Robin Spence, Rainer Flesch and Carlos Oliveira mentioned in the mail of Mario Lopez, such as *Construction Platform* which has a strong force. Executive Committee agreed on the issue of retrofitting of vulnerable buildings in Europe should be in the agenda of EU and EAEE should persuade EU that EAEE is not promoting any countries just as a non-profit umbrella organisation and if they contact, EAEE can advice EU experts in a wide range. The President, Mihail Garevski emphasised that it is an exact time to contact especially after the catastrophic Japan earthquake and suggested to write a letter to National Associations to force their PMs to activate risk reduction and awareness regarding earthquakes on EU level. Secretary General proposed to hold a meeting during the World Conference with the delegates of National Associations. Andreas Kappos suggested to organise an international press release and give a brief explanation to media.

Item 11:

- Executive Committee Member Carlos Oliveira suggested including post conference proceedings electronically in EAEE web site. This idea was supported by the Executive Committee provided that there will be no copyright problems with ex publisher firm Balkema.
- Executive Committee decided to write a letter to Italian Authorities to express their concern and support for the Italian Scientists and Colleagues indicted on the basis of their alleged failure to warn the population before the L'Aquila Earthquake.
- It was decided to have the next Executive Committee Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in September during the Fifteenth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering.

Epilogue: The second meeting of the Executive Committee of the EAEE held in Istanbul ended with thanks of the President to Secretary General for the excellent organisation of the meeting and all participating members.

Atilla Ansal
Secretary General