

EMA General Council Meeting e-Meeting on 15 Sep 2021 – Minutes

Participants

PARTICIPANTS WITH VOTING RIGHTS (MEMBERS OF THE GC AND OFFICERS)

- **Elisabetta Agostinelli (Treasurer)**
- Numan Akdogan (Turkey)
- Johan Akerman (Sweden)
- Agustina Asenjo Barahona (Spain)
- Riccardo Bertacco (Italy)
- Mary-Hrachooi Boghosia (Armenia)
- **Christian Back (Germany, Officer for Awards)**
- Susana Cardoso (Portugal)
- **Bertrand Dupé (Officer for Carbon Footprint and Digital Networking)**
- Cathrine Frandsen (Denmark)
- **Olivier Fruchart (Vice-President, Officer for Higher Education, Officer for Communication)**
- Elinor Galanis (United Kingdom)
- **Burkard Hillebrands (President),**
- Dariusz Kaczorowski (Poland)
- Maarit Karppinen (Finland)
- Fridrik Magnus (Iceland)
- Dennis Meier (Norway)
- Andreas Michels (Luxembourg)
- Damir Pajic (Croatia)
- Nikolay Perov (Russian Federation)
- Theo Rasing (The Netherlands)
- Alexander Shengelaya (Georgia)
- Anatolie Sidorenko (Moldova)
- Alexandru Stancu (Romania)
- Plamen Stamenov
- Dieter Suess (Austria)
- Alex Tovstolytkin (Ukraine)
- Theodossis Trypiniotis (Cyprus)
- Vojtěch Uhlíř (Czech Republic)
- Bartel Van Wayenberge (Belgium)
- Lajos K. Varga (Hungary)
- Ratislav Varga (Slovakia)
- Ora Entin Wohlman (Israel)
- Nerija Zurauskiene (Lithuania).

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

- Kees van der Beek (EPS/CMD)
- Paolo Bortolotti (SpinTronic Factory)
- **Nuala Caffrey (proposed Officer for Gender and Diversity)**
- Eugenio Coronado (The European Institute of Molecular Magnetism, EIMM)
- Dino Fiorani (past president)
- Mathias Weiler (Magnetometry.eu)
- Tomas Jungwirth (President of JEMS IAC)

EXCUSED PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER	REPLACEMENT OR DELEGATED VOTE
▫ Paulo Freitas (Officer for Industrial Relationships)	
▫ Pietro Gambardella (Switzerland)	▫ Christian Back (Officer for Honors and Awards)
▫ Thomas Hauet (Magnetometry.eu)	▫ Mathias Weiler (Magnetometry.eu)
▫ Raivo Stern (Estonia)	▫ Burkard Hillebrands, President
▫ Emmanuelle Jal (France, Officer for Communication)	▫ O. Fruchart (Vice-President, Interim for communication)
▫ Ivan Nedkov (Bulgaria)	



Notes:

- The questions raised are reported after each item. If none were made, no comment was inserted in the report.
- All votes held during the meeting have been made non-anonymously, although not reported nominally in the present minutes.
- These minutes have been formally approved during the next General Council, held 26 July 2022 in hybrid mode.

Agenda

1. WELCOME

The President proposes that the meeting is recorded, for the sole internal purpose to write minutes in a faithful way. No comment is made, the proposal is approved.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GC E-MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2020

- No comments were raised on the minutes for the last General Council meeting, held on December 8, 2020, which were thus formally approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- No comments were made on the present agenda, which was therefore approved.
- The statutes of the EMA (<http://magnetism.eu/ema/documents>) state that a member of the General Council with voting rights can delegate his/her vote to another member of the council, provided that it is announced at least one week in advance to the President of the EMA. Given that the reminder about the council meeting has been sent late, less than a week ago, the President suggests that all proposals for delegation received prior to the start of the meeting are accepted. No comment is raised, the proposal was approved.

4. GENERAL REPORT BY THE EMA PRESIDENT (BURKARD HILLEBRANDS)

- Working process
 - The President Burkard Hillebrands and Vice-President Olivier Fruchart hold monthly meetings to review the ongoing work and move forward in a coordinated manner.
 - Regular meetings of the Executive Board are now organized to involve directly all Officers, typically every other few months, and since the previous GC meeting: May and September 2021.
- The following specific actions have been led since the last meeting of the GC:
 - Search committee for a Gender and Diversity Officer for the EMA, leading to an appointment by the President, subject today to approval (#6).
 - Preparation of a technical sponsorship document, subject today to approval (#7).
 - The General Council was partly renewed through elections. All European countries (in the continental sense, in accordance with the definition of the EPS) are now represented in the General Council of the EMA, except Lichtenstein, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania (see: <http://magnetism.eu/gc>).
 - Through the European School on Magnetism as an educational action, the EMA has been contacted by Cristina Gomez Polo from the Public University of Navarra, Spain. She and colleagues were proposing that the EMA plays the role of a supporting society in an initiative of theirs for a Master Erasmus Mundus dedicated to Magnetism. A common meeting has been held between her team and Vice-President and Officer for Higher Education Olivier Fruchart. While this initiative could drive more students towards Magnetism, the EMA mentioned that the EMA must act with balance between all initiatives, and thus may not be able to participate as a partner.
- The following specific actions are foreseen for 2021-2022:
 - Organize the partial renewal of the General Council
 - If approved today (#9), prepare legal French statutes
 - Implement guidelines for carbon footprint and diversity in bids for ESM and EMA (#6 & #8)
 - Organize the sharing of experience for mixed events, especially involving ESM and JEMS teams.

No question is raised.

5. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

a- Treasurer (Elisabetta Agostinelli)

- The EMA ended 2020 with balance of 70,998.67€. The current balance is 102,193.12 €, mostly arising from the refund of the loan made to 2020 JEMS.
- The following questions are raised
 - **[Paolo Bortolotti]** What is the objective of the EMA in terms of income and savings? Do we like to arrive at a given level, shall we reach a plateau, and what would be its level?
 - The Treasurer Elisabetta Agostinelli mentions that the General Council decides this policy, her role is the legal check of all processes to implement this policy.
 - The President Burkard Hillebrands mentions that expenditures is a minor budget. The largest part of EMA's budget is JEMS, from which we may generate moderate income or losses, however the global balance is more or less constant over the years.
 - **[Riccardo Bertacco]** How much should be the final balance, what is the planning to spend the money?

- The Treasurer Elisabetta Agostinelli reminds the GC that the EMA provides the JEMS organizers with a loan. In the case of a negative balance from the conference, the EMA needs to have a financial margin. In case the income remains positive over the years, we may decide specific actions, such as to provide more grants to young scientists to attend JEMS.
- The President Burkard Hillebrands says that we could write this as an item in the agenda of a future meeting, to discuss actions that may be launched with surplus.
- **[Andreas Michel]** What is the main income?
 - The President Burkard Hillebrands answers that at present the main income is surplus from JEMS
 - The Vice-President, Officer for Higher Communication and Interim Officer for Communication Olivier Fruchart add that promotion on the web site generate circa 5 k€/year, and the European School on Magnetism also has a stable financial status of a few tens of k€ in case of unexpected losses of a given edition. However, so far the budget of the School is managed through the French Physical Society, which is distinct from the EMA (see also #9).

b- Honors and Awards (Christian Back)

- The Officer for Honors and Awards Christian Back reminds the General Council that the EMA has installed two awards (<http://magnetism.eu/awards>): the Young Scientist Award, up to seven years following the PhD defense and presented yearly, and the Dominique Givord Career Award, presented every other three years. Both awards come with a monetary awards, a ceramic artifact, and an invitation for a semi-plenary or plenary talk at the next JEMS.
- Christian Back leads the process, nominating a few persons from the General Council to take part in the selection committee. The process takes part in two steps, based on voting.
- This year 2021 there was only the Young Scientist Award, presented to Libor Šmejkal, for *ground-breaking theoretical predictions of novel spin-splitting mechanisms and antiferromagnetic Hall effect in collinear antiferromagnets, which have ignited the emergent field of topological antiferromagnetic spintronics* (<http://magnetism.eu/news/167/38-news.htm>). The 2021 and 2022 awards will be formally awarded at JEMS2022.
- The following questions are raised:
 - **[Agustina Asenjo]** Could you discuss the statistics and gender balance?
 - The Officer for Honors and Awards Christian Back answers that it is difficult to evaluate the awardees, due to the small number of years that the process has been running. So far there has been one awardee woman and one awardee man for the Young Scientist Award, and one man for the Dominique Givord award. The ratio of applicants to the former more or less reflects the proportion of PhD colleagues in the community. In the case of the latter only two nominations had been received, both for men.
 - President Burkard Hillebrands: all can contribute to a good balance, including members of the General Council, by nominating female colleagues.

c- Higher Education: ESM (Olivier Fruchart)

- The European School on Magnetism 2021 (<http://magnetism.eu.school/2021>) has been held in September 6-17, 2021. It was for the first time a mixed event with 75 participants onsite in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and 85 participants online. The mixed-event form is in accordance with the decision of the General Council (Dec. 2020) to organize all major events of the EMA in this form,

first to lessen the impact of exceptional circumstances such as the COVID pandemic, second to decrease the carbon footprint of its events and allow all to participate.

- The online part provides additional income. All lectures are recorded since 2020, and made publicly available on EMA's web site, as an implementation of open science and education. The School uses as tools: EMA's Zoom license, EMA's Vimeo license as a cloud for videos, Discord as chat and document sharing, multiple webcams, OBS mixing, onsite and online chairs.
- The school has a healthy educational and financial situation.
- Actions for the future:
 - Sessions
 - ESM2022 in Saarbrücken
 - ESM2023 in Madrid
 - ESM2024 in Leeds/York/Manchester
 - Educational developments
 - Self-assessing of participants
 - Promote networking after ESM
 - Organizational developments
 - Call to the General Council for the partial renewal of members of the scientific advisory committee
 - Implement Carbon footprint + Diversity + Digital means in guidelines

d- The Joint European Magnetic Symposia (Tomas Jungwirth)

- The President of JEMS IAC Tomas Jungwirth and the EMA are very grateful to the 2020 organizers for their heroic effort in putting together the first on-line JEMS, in the difficult situation of the pandemic. All future JEMS sessions will be organized as mixed events, for the same reason as for ESM (see above, and decision of the General Council on 8th December 2020).
- JEMS2022 will be held 25-29th July, hopefully hybrid in Warsaw.
- The International Advisory Committee of JEMS (<http://magnetism.eu/jems/committee>) is still collecting bids for 2023, with a decision planned for October 2021.
- Questions raised
 - **[Riccardo Bertacco]** strongly suggests to go for online remote presentations, not recorded presentations.
 - The President of JEMS IAC, Officer Tomas Junwirth, mentions that this is fully in line with JEMS IAC and the 2022 organizers.
 - Dariusz Kaczorowski, representative for Poland and co-organizer of JEMS 2022, confirms that they indeed strongly favor the online live presentation mode. Yet, the organizers have in mind to make possible the oversea participation.

e- Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint (Bertrand Dupé)

- The activity is going on rather well. The participation to seminars is stable (circa 100 per event), with active participants. There are few refusals to give talks, still too few nominations, and it is hard to attract attendees for topics a bit aside the field of magnetism (e.g., superconductors). There is a good gender balance for early-career seminars, a bit less for plenary lectures.
- As new recent project, EMA opened a Discord server for its own use (<https://discord.com/channels/859702285441302538/>). It allows instant messaging, video

calls, file sharing, administration. It is free for small files and low-quality video calls, which is the way it is currently registered. ESM2021 used it successfully.

- Questions
 - **[Theo Rasing]** It is a very interesting overview of digital networking and new activities. Can we evaluate the extra additional carbon footprint induced?
 - Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint Bertrand Dupé: there exist detailed studies on the topic, he will propose to share documents. The reduction of carbon emission for online versus onsite is up to two orders of magnitude. Online events are largely beneficial if used as substitution, not only new events.
 - Kees van der Beek: For online versus onsite gain, it is very dependent on the type of event, such as European events where many participants would be travelling by train, or worldwide event where participants use international flights.
 - Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint Bertrand Dupé: this item shall be rediscussed in #8.
 - **[Mary-Hrachoochi Boghosia]** Was an alternative to Zoom considered?
 - Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint Bertrand Dupé: several solutions were tested: Microsoft team, Liveside, Jitsy, Skype. The choice for Zoom was made based on its stability, and having the most features, such as white board, versatile with connecting extra screens and tablets, and compatible with OBS video embedding. It is also rather cheap.

f- Industrial Relationships (Paulo Freitas)

- Paulo Freitas could not participate. He prepared a short report, presented by President Burkard Hillebrands.
- A list of technical contacts and contacts in companies has been made, and shared between the EMA and SpintronicFactory. Contact with other associations, presentation of EMA at forums and contribution to technology roadmaps is mentioned.
- Actions scheduled include update information on EMA's web page and extend links to other industrial partners, beyond Europe.

g- Communication (Olivier Fruchart, interim)

- Olivier Fruchart is acting as interim Officer for Communication from July to early December 2021, during the maternity leave of Officer for Communication Emmanuelle Jal. The means for communication activities rely on the Officer and the Scientific Secretary Michal Staño, as well as Zoom (video calls), Dropbox (all EMA documents secured and shared) and Vimeo (cloud for video) licenses.
- Recent actions include the technical means to embed videos on EMA's web site (involves also Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint Bertrand Dupé), the initial rejection of a Wikipedia page for the EMA on the basis of self-plagiarism, and the scheduling of monthly editorials from Officers in the newsletter.
- Actions scheduled include establishment of the Wikipedia page, and a paid technical update of our web site: turn to https (security and referencing), highlight forthcoming EMA seminars, display news of a given category, correction of bugs.
- Reminder: as national representatives, you are a key person to forward relevant information for EMA's communication, please do not hesitate to contribute !

- Please send magnetism-relevant news to contact@magnetism.eu:
 - Events beyond the academics
 - National awards
 - Society or industry-related news
 - Obituaries

h- Representative EPS/CMD (José Maria de Teresa).

- CMD Chairman José Maria de Teresa delegated Kees van der Beek to the present meeting.
- The EPS-CMD newsletter has a new format. Please feel free to use it to complement the EMA newsletter. Conversely, the EPS-CMD uses information from the EMA newsletter.
- Call for Emmy Noether distinction: <https://www.eps.org/blogpost/751263/375346/Call-for-nominations-for-the-EPS-Emmy-Noether-Distinction--Winter-2021?hhSearchTerms=%22noether%22&terms=>
- The EPS forum will be held June 2-4, 2022 in Paris. It is an opportunity for Physics – Industry interaction.
- CMD 29: August 21-26, 2022. It is an online event, with an onsite component for plenary and semi-plenary speakers. Julie Grollier is not available and has declined. <http://cmd29.iopconfs.org/home>
- CMD is now organizing a series of online seminars. <http://cmd29.iopconfs.org/online-series>

i- Representative Spintronics Factory (Paolo Bortolotti)

- An STF advisory board was created.
- Discussion is taking place with Paulo Freitas on common opportunities. There is a common wish to make a better cartography of industrial partners, some have been contacted.
- The first impact of lobbying is now visible: definition of spintronics-oriented calls in Horizon Europe.
- With regard to communication, a scientific committee has been setup to feed the web site with STF-related news. It is linked to the EMA to share the most important input.
- Questions and comments
 - **[Interim Officer for Communication Olivier Fruchart]** mentions that it would be valuable to consider opening LinkedIn and Twitter channels for STF. Such channels exists for the EMA, and prove to be most effective in generating traffic on our web site, besides their direct impact.

j- Representative Magnetometry Network (Mathias Weiler)

- Responsible of Magnetometry Network Thomas Hauet delegated Co-responsible Mathias Weiler to the present meeting.
- Reminder: the aim of the network is to promote networking among a European community, on both scientific and technology items. It also has an outreach objective.
- The Networked was being managed by Thomas Hauet so far. It has worked rather well so far in France, however with some space for improvement at the European scale. The idea now is to have national networks, and to link them to the magnetometry network.
- **[Plamen Stamenov]** wished to register to the Magnetometry network, however faced technical issues. Mathias is sorry for this, please contact him at weiler@physik.uni-kl.de.

k- Representative European Molecular Magnetism Community (Eugenio Coronado)

The next events in the coming years are:

- ECMM 2022 in Rennes (France) (European Conference on Molecular Magnetism)
- ECMoLS 2022 in Dortmund (European Conference on Molecular Spintronics)
- ESMOLNA 2022 in Valladolid (European School on Molecular Nanoscience)

l- Past President (Dino Fiorani)

- President Burkard Hillebrands provides an introduction: if we need to find new people to act as Vice-President and President, the persons in position are biased, so that an independent person is welcome to lead the process. The past-President Dino Fiorani has been asked to act on this mission.
- Past-President Dino Fiorani mentions that he is very happy to continue serving the EMA with this duty. He reminds all that both the future Vice-President and President shall be elected by the General Council among its current members. Besides scientific quality, a key requirement is strong motivation and dedication to serve the EMA and the community. Also to keep in mind is that the previous Vice-President may be proposed to the General Council as candidate for the future President. The opening of the process will be mentioned in the Editorial newsletter of February, *i.e.*, dispatched on February 1st 2022.

6. APPROVAL OF THE OFFICER FOR GENDER AND DIVERSITY

- President Burkard Hillebrands provides an introduction: the importance and need for such an Officer was discussed and voted within the General Council on December 8, 2020. A call for volunteers was made within the General Council at the very same meeting, to bring together a search committee. The search committee consisted of President Burkard Hillebrands, Vice-President Olivier Fruchart, Officer for Digital Networking and Carbon Footprint Bertrand Dupé, Cathrine Frandsen. The committee proceeded to the hearing of several candidates, making a recommendation to the President, who eventually appointed Nuala Caffrey. Today is the moment for the formal evaluation and possible approval by the General Council.
- Nuala Caffrey provides an overview of her profile and vision of the mission for a Gender and Diversity Officer
 - She is assistant Professor at the School of Physics, University College Dublin. She has been active in DFT calculations, 2D materials, surface magnetism. She is also already acting on the organizing committee of the EMA online seminars.
 - Her vision for the mission is: “plan” (gather data, decide how to measure success, establish links with other organizations) and “do” (distribute best practice, write code of conduct, take action to ensure women and minority groups are welcome and supported, favors incremental improvements to reach a radical change).
 - Comments and suggestions are very welcomed: nuala.caffrey@ucd.ie
- Questions and comments
 - **[Kees van der Beek]** is not longer responsible for CMD, however is responsible for equal opportunities at the EPS. He offers to be in close contact with the EMA Officer for Gender and Diversity, which Nuala Caffrey approves. Most of what Nuala Caffrey proposes has already been worked by EPS and the French Physical Society, so that he is very happy to share with Nuala, if approved.
- Vote: 100% approval of the appointment of Nuala Caffrey as Officer for Gender and Diversity.

7. PROPOSAL TO OFFER TECHNICAL SPONSORSHIP TO ORGANIZERS OF MAGNETISM-RELATED EVENTS IN EUROPE

- Officer for Communication Emmanuelle Jal and Interim Officer Olivier Fruchart prepared a short document describing the offer for technical sponsorship from the side of the EMA. This initiative intends to provide assistance to organizers of events in Europe, while contributing to the promotion of the EMA. Independently from this initiative, a request for this has recently been made to the EMA.
- The sponsorship consists in providing good-practice guidelines with regards to Gender and Diversity, and Carbon Footprint, as well as a possible light hosting on EMA's web site (full pages, or simply the registration process). In return, the event promotes the EMA and includes an opt-in option in the registration process for the attendees to be appended to the mailing list of the EMA. The agreement does not imply a financial deal, although donation to the EMA is proposed and can be considered by the event.
- Comments and questions
 - **[Past-President Dino Fiorani]** says that this formal step forward is very good.
 - **[Numan Akdogan]**: the EMA may also use social media to host their events. Contact shall be made between Officer for Communication Olivier Fruchart and Numan Akdogan, to understand the proposal in practice.

8. EMA POLICY REGARDING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ITS EVENTS (BERTRAND DUPÉ)

- Officer for Carbon Footprint and Digital Networking Bertrand Dupé made some search on the topic, and brings forward the norm ISO14001, and a method to implement it in a light and flexible way. This includes planning, outreach, and measure. The organization and the evaluation are based on grades.
- Bertrand Dupé will disseminate a document to summarize the action. He is also seeking volunteers to help, from the General Council or beyond, in the national communities.
- Questions
 - **[Theo Rasing]** Would it be OK if somebody not in the council is proposed? He would then have somebody in mind, with excellent assets.
 - President Burkard Hillebrands approves. Theo Rasing shall stay in touch with Bertrand Dupé.

9. LEGAL STATUTES FOR THE ASSOCIATION (OLIVIER FRUCHART)

- Vice-President Olivier Fruchart presents the reasons to investigate the change of legal statutes of the EMA, currently under the Italian law for associations, and the proposal itself.
- Reasons
 - It is currently not possible to collect funding through invoices.
 - The separate management of JEMS (local organization with surplus transferred to the EMA) and ESM+EMA Web site (autonomous management through the French Physical Society) may raise legal financial issues.
 - The year-after-year renewal of part-time short-term contract of the Scientific Secretary Michal Staňo is legally questionable.
- Proposal
 - Turn to the 1901 French law for associations (used also by the EPS)
 - Give a firmer ground to the concept of individual and/or company membership. This may provide a better connection with the community, allow the (required) implementation of a

general assembly, and further possibilities (not obligations): implement polls or votes for elections, individual or collective membership fees.

- The vote gives 100% approval to investigate new statutes, to be approved at the next meeting.

10. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Key dates for the EMA in the forthcoming year include:

- Young scientist award
 - November 1, 2021: call
 - January 31, 2022: deadline
 - May 1, 2022: result
- JEMS 2022: July 25-29, including next meeting of the GC, with items (among others).
 - Elections of next President and Vice-President
 - Consider new legal statutes
 - Vote on the move of the headquarters alongside those of EPS, in Mulhouse, and on the move of bank account.
- Partial renewal of GC
 - April 1, 2022: call
 - May 1, 2022: start voting process
 - June 1, 2022: results disclosed

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a- Next GC council

Alongside legal statutes, vote on the move of headquarters alongside EPS, and move of bank account.

b- Policy regarding the invitation of larger magnetism organizations such as PetaSpin

- President Burkard Hillebrands: it is valuable that magnetism-oriented bodies with a European action are connected with the EMA. Yet, we need to define conditions for the connection, such as absence of bias, scale beyond the national level, etc. These conditions will be summarized for a vote at the next GC, as such general rules have not been drafted so far.
- [Andreas Michel] What is the idea? Burkard: increase visibility of both bodies, avoid competition.

Attachements

- Proposal for technical sponsorship