

EMA General Council Meeting 29th August 2023 – Minutes

The meeting was held in hybrid mode, 12:00 – 14:00. Provisional minutes were made public on 15th October 2023. These were formally approved with no modification at the next meeting of the General Council, held on 3rd July 2024.

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Participants

A star * stands for online participants.

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

- ADELMANN Christoph (Belgium)*
- ÅKERMAN Johan (Sweden)
- ARCON Denis (Slovenia)*
- ASENJO BARAHONA Agustina (Spain)
- BAILLEUIL Matthieu (Treasurer)
- BERTACCO Riccardo (Italy)
- CAFFREY Nuala (Officer for Gender and Diversity)*
- CARDOSO Susana (Portugal)*
- CARVA Karel (Czech Republic)
- DEMPSEY Nora (Officer for JEMS)
- DUPE Bertrand (Officer for Carbon Footprint)
- FRANDSEN Cathrine (Denmark)
- FRUCHART Olivier (President, Officer for Higher Education)
- GAMBARDELLA Pietro (Switzerland)
- HILLEBRANDS Burkard (past president)
- HRACHOOHI BOSHOSIA Mary (Armenia)
- JAL Emmanuelle (France, Officer for Communication)*
- KACZOROWSKI Dariusz (Poland)*
- KARPPINEN Maarit (Finland)
- KUSIGERSKI Vladan (Serbia)*
- MAGNUS Fridrik (Iceland)
- MEIER Dennis (Vice-President)
- MICHELS Andreas (Luxembourg)*
- MOORE Thomas (United Kingdom)
- ÖZTÜRK Mustafa (Turkey)*
- PAJIC Damir (Croatia)
- PETTI Daniela (Officer for Digital Networking)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ RICHTER Kornel (Slovakia)- L ▫ SIDORENKO Anatoli (Moldova) ▫ STAMENOV Plamen (Ireland) ▫ STANCU Alexandru (Romania)* ▫ SUESS Dieter (Austria) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ TANGOULIS Vassilis (Greece)* ▫ TOVSTOLYTKIN Alex (Ukraine)* ▫ TRYPINIOTIS Theodosis (Cyprus)* ▫ WAHLSTRÖM Erik (Norway) ▫ ZARAUSKIENE Nerija (Lithuania) |
|---|--|

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Vito Puliafito (Vice-President) (Petaspin) ▫ WEILER Mathias (Magnetometry.eu) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ LEITAO Diana (Proposed Officer for Industrial Relationships) |
|--|--|

EXCUSED PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER	REPLACEMENT OR DELEGATED VOTE
▫ STERN Raivo (Estonia)	▫ Olivier FRUCHART
▫ CEBERS Andrejs (Latvia)	▫ Olivier FRUCHART
▫ BACK Christian (Germany)	▫ Pietro GAMBARDELLA
▫ RASING Theo (The Netherlands)*	▫
▫ SHENGELAYA Alexander (Georgia)	▫
▫ VARGA Lajos K. (Hungary)*	▫
▫ ENTIN-WOHLMAN Ora (Israel)*	▫
▫ NEDKOV Ivan (Bulgaria)*	▫
▫ DE TERESA José Maria (EPS/CMD)	n.a.
▫ BOLLERO Alberto (Chair for JEMS2023)	n.a.
▫ BORTOLOTTI Paolo (SpinTronic Factory)	n.a.
▫ CORONADO Eugenio (The European Institute of Molecular Magnetism, EIMM)	n.a.

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 are provisional; they will be made public by the end of September 2023. They will be formally approved at the next General Council, to take place during ICM2024.

Agenda

1. WELCOME

The President Olivier Fruchart welcomes the General Council (GC) members, officers and invited guests participating in person and online (the meeting is held in hybrid format).

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GC E-MEETING, JULY 26th, 2022

No comments are made concerning the minutes from the last GC meeting on July 26th, 2022. The minutes are thus approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of today's GC meeting is presented. No comments are brought up and the agenda is approved.

4. GENERAL REPORT BY THE EMA PRESIDENT (OLIVIER FRUCHART)

4.1. Working process

- The President Olivier Fruchart and Vice-President Dennis Meier hold monthly meetings to review the ongoing work and move forward in a coordinated manner. They both participate in important discussions and, in addition, independently drive different activities.
- Regular meetings of the Executive Board are organized to involve all Officers; meetings took place on October 10th, 2022, and March 21st, 2023.

4.2. Executive board

- The current members of the Executive Board are acknowledged and suggested changes are presented.
 - o Bertrand Dupé is proposed as new *Officer for Higher Education*, following the former officer Olivier Fruchart. His role as officer is to be approved later in this GC meeting.
 - o Matthieu Bailleul has started as Treasurer in April 2023 (approved during GC meeting in July 2022), taking over from Elisabetta Agostinelli
 - o Diana Leitao is proposed as new *Officer for Industrial Relations*, following the former officer Paulo Freitas. Diana has started to prepare her actions as officer in May 2023. Her role as officer is to be approved later in this GC meeting.
 - o All other officers continue their terms; no additional changes.

4.3. Partial GC elections

- Regular partial GC elections have been conducted concerning Representatives whose term ended in 2023. In addition, a new Representative was elected for Norway, as Dennis Meier (now Vice-President) stepped back from his role as Representative for Norway. The President presents current GC members, including the dates when their terms end, and he welcomes the new GC members (a complete list is presented during the GC meeting; an updated list can also be found on the EMA web page: <https://magnetism.eu/gc>).
- Concerning the definition of an *EU country*, EMA continues to follow the example of the European Physical Society (i.e., “a country within the European continent, or a country or geographical area hosting a physical society that is member of the European Physical Society.”)

4.4 Implementation of the new statutes and bank accounts

- As agreed at the GC meeting in 2022, EMA has moved the statutes from Italy to France (alongside EPS; now having the same legal statutes). The legal statutes were approved administratively on April, 2023. The bank account in France was opened in August 2023 and, along with the new account, Matthieu Bailleul took over as treasurer.
- The transfer of money from ESM (previously under the responsibility of the French Physical Society) to EMA is in progress.
- As the past president has no longer legal access to the account in Italy, the President, Olivier Fruchart, will travel to Rome in person (required) to transfer the EMA’s fund to the new account and close the old one.
- Administrative processes for staff payment (scientific secretary for communication) and bookkeeping are being established.

4.5 Memorandum of Understanding with other societies

- MoUs renewed with both IEEE and EPS (now without end date).

COMMENTS

- Bertrand Dupé asks why the MoUs do not have an end date. The latter, however, is not needed as they can be ended by either party at any time, as Olivier Fruchart explains.

5. REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

5.1. Treasurer

- Elisabetta Agostinelli (former treasurer) reports that she has ended her duties as treasurer of EMA, handing over to Matthieu Bailleul.
- Some payments for 2023 are still pending, e.g., for costs concerning the YS and DG awards.
 - o Financial statement for 2022: initial balance: 101.699,04 €; final balance: 87.276,85 €; in 2022, there was no income from conferences.
 - o Financial statement for 2023 (status September 9th, 2023): 84.525,49 €

- Note: at this stage, this does not include the ESM part, which is still managed by the French Physical Society.
(a detailed overview of the income and expenses during 2022 and 2023 is presented during the meeting by Elisabetta Agostinelli)
- Matthieu Bailleul provides an overview concerning the new bank account in France.
 - EMA was registered as association in France on April 14th, 2023.
 - The bank account in France is open since early August, 2023. There are three accounts, i.e., (i) a general EMA account, (ii) an account for ESM, and (iii) a savings account. The transfer of the respective funds remains to be done and procedures for bookkeeping are currently being established.

5.2. Awards

- Olivier Fruchart reports on behalf of Christian Back.
- For the YSA, eight nominations were received (3 female, 5 male), and, for the DGA, also eight nominations were received (these involved in total 3 women, 7 men; note that one of the nominations was a “triple nomination” with three nominees, i.e., 1 female, 2 male).
- The nominations for both awards (YSA and DGA) were evaluated by a committee of members from the EMA general council (4 female, 6 male).
- The YSA was awarded to Samuel Mañas-Valero and the DGA to Oliver Gutfleisch. Their plenary lectures will be given later at this JEMS 2023 in Madrid.

5.3. Higher Education

- Olivier Fruchart reports the key numbers for ESM, with 100 participants onsite and 25 online in 2022. The school led to a surplus of 1.5k€.
- The ESM2023 will take place during the 2 weeks after the JEMS 2023. 96 participants are expected on site and 55 participants online.
- The balance of the ESM bank account is expected to be about 65k€ after ESM 2023; the balance will be transferred to the new EMA bank account in France.
- Bertrand Dupé was proposed by the ESM steering committee on January 25th, 2023, as new Officer of Higher Education, following Olivier Fruchart, who is now President of EMA. Bertrand Dupé is to be approved by the GC later in this meeting (see item 6).

5.4. JEMS

- Nora Dempsey presents key numbers for the JEMS 2023 in Madrid:
 - 741 registered participants onsite and 40 registered participants online.
 - The majority of participants is from Europe. The number of participants from Asia is rather low compared to previous JEMS, with 3.2% from Japan and 1.2% China. The latter, however, appears to be a general phenomenon (not restricted to JEMS).
 - A possible reason for the low number of online participants is the rather high costs for online registration.
 - Details of the budget are presented (for example, about 19.500 € income via sponsors and exhibitors).
 - 50% (or more) of the final surplus will go to EMA.

- Smaller challenges during the conference (e.g., longer waiting lines for food during lunch) have been identified and addressed.

5.4. Gender and Diversity

- Nuala Caffrey reports on recent actions, including the code of conduct for EMA events that has been completed and approved. She acknowledges that organizers engage with new guidelines and that they are also considered in new bids for future JEMS.
- Nuala mentions that with respect to gender balance, she observes encouraging numbers for the percentage of female speakers.
- The plan for plan for 2023/2024 is presented. Key points include:
 - Finalize and publish data on Gender Balance from previous JEMS conferences.
 - Organize 'Diversity in Magnetism' Summit (1-day / online) and approach sister organizations to gauge interest in co-hosting.
 - Maintain database of relevant diversity related academic articles and publish online.
 - Create and maintain 'Diversity in Magnetism' Slack Community.

COMMENTS

- Bertrand Dupé points out that a dedicated channel can be established on the discord server of EMA.
- Diana Leitao points out that gender balance in terms of representation (invited speakers, plenary talks, ...) is interesting, but additional metrics may be defined and considered.

5.5. Carbon Footprint

- Bertrand Dupé reports that his current focus is to quantify the carbon footprint of EMA events and to encourage, e.g., local events, the use of ground transportation, and CO₂ compensation.
- Positive about the ESM 2022 was that it was held in a university building and no air conditioning was used. There was a special session about sustainability, the program was only online (no printed version), and public transportation was encouraged. Food was served in the Mensa so that no catering was necessary. Accommodation was in a youth hostel.
- It is positive that JEMS 2023 is held in a university building (air conditioning unavoidable during August in Madrid). Online streaming is established, there is a special session about sustainability, and the program is available online. Positive actions include the recycling of food and waste, usage of paper plates and glasses / paper name tags. The use of plastic knives and forces, however, should be avoided at future meetings.
- A main future task will be to keep creating and further enhance awareness; there were already several good measures in place concerning the carbon footprint of JEMS in 2022.

COMMENTS

- Olivier Fruchart agrees that reducing the carbon footprint is an ongoing job and that an assessment of positive actions has to be done for all EMA events individually.
- Agustina Asenjo Barahona emphasizes that it is important to keep the implemented online features (e.g., hybrid events, online seminars)

- Daniela Petti asks about the difference concerning fees for online / in-person attendance of JEMS. Olivier Fruchart comments that when excluding the food and drinks at JEMS, the fees are almost the same.
- Cathrine Frandsen asks about the effective costs per person for a hybrid JEMS. The question, however, cannot be answered right away. She points out that it might be good to also consider this number in future discussions.

5.6. Digital Networking

- Daniela Petti reports that the number of nominations for the early career seminars has increased during the last year (more than 12 since October 2022). There are two seminars per month with about 20 attendees on twitch and 15 to 20 on zoom (for ECS).
- Suggestions for improvements and new ideas are welcome at any time.
- A challenge is that, occasionally, it is difficult to get in touch with the nominated students. Here, the procedures need to be improved.
- A continuous discussion is taking place about a possible extension of the content of the seminars beyond scientific results (e.g., also cover topics concerning publication and industry).

COMMENTS

- Burkard Hillebrands points out that the JEMS meeting represents a special opportunity to advertise student seminars, etc. Olivier Fruchart agrees and notes that this will be done during the EMA session.
- Bertrand Dupé acknowledges the very impressive quality of the contributions. Several of the speakers from the early career seminars now have permanent positions, which could possibly be advertise more.

5.7. Communication

- Emmanuelle Jal presents an overview of activities since January 2023, including the agenda for editorials. She emphasizes that Michal Stano is invaluable as scientific secretary.
 - o The web site now has a “search” function and networks tab.
 - o Communications channels: Newsletter (editorial), zoom, Vimeo, social media [Twitter: 1200 followers, +400 in last year; LinkedIn: 2100 followers, + 700 in last year].
- Future possible actions include:
 - o Wikipedia page, National Societies Network, Integration of magnetometry.eu.
 - o Management of membership.
 - o Contact contact@magnetism.eu for, e.g., events beyond the academics, national awards, society or industry-related news, obituaries, technical sponsorship.
 - o Discord server outside the website
- Emmanuelle Jal reminds the GC that it is important to report relevant items (i.e., events, awards, job announcements, ...) to her to ensure optimal coverage and promotion.

COMMENTS

- Anatoli Sidorenko agrees with the importance of networking and dissemination activities, and he emphasizes the value of, e.g., books for the general public and roadmaps.

5.8. Reports by representatives

- **EPS-CMD:** Olivier Fruchart briefly presents the EPS objectives and main activities on behalf of Jose Maria de Teresa. The Condensed Matter Division (CMD) is one of the largest divisions at the EPS and EMA represents the of magnetism section in EPS-CMD.
- **STF:** Olivier Fruchart presents on behalf of Paolo Bortolotti. STF is an EU network, lobbying spintronics towards Europe. A meeting of the STF steering committee took place in November 2022, financially supported by EMA. Strengthening the link with STF is an item on the agenda of Diana Leitao.
- **Petaspin:** Vito Puliafito (Vice-President of PetaSpin) provides an overview of the mission and partners. Currently, three partners, i.e., University of Messina, Politecnico di Bari, and INGV (www.ingv.it); two new members from Jan 2024. Partnerships with IEEE Magnetics, IEEE NTC, IUPAP, and EMA.
- **Magnetometry.eu:** Mathias Weiler reports what the network can help with and gives a status update. It has been proposed that the webpages are transferred to the EMA webpage with support from Emmanuelle Jal. The strong role of France within the network is mentioned, which also is a discussion point within Magnetometry.eu.

6. APPROVAL OF ACTIONS

Olivier Fruchart presents the actions which have been developed since that last GC meeting and require approval by the GC:

1. EMA is signatory of the coalition for advancing research assessment (CoARA). EMA does not take an active role, but expresses support for this initiative.
2. Tightening of links with IUPAP C9 commission (magnetism) and ICM when in Europe. Currently, there are no official links, but in practice there are certain agreements: the C9 commission has one representative from EMA. Whenever ICM comes to Europe, there is no JEMS to avoid competition. EMA supports ICM in terms of communication. A future possibility is to organize a joint ICM/JEMS meeting when ICM comes to Europe.
3. *Officer for Industrial Relations* – Diana Leitao, gives an overview of her background and her area of expertise. She has a strong background in magnetic sensor technology and good contact with the automotive industry. She has built a team together with Ester Palmero and Graeme Finch to ensure broader coverage of different areas. She started preparations for her role as officer in May 2023.
4. *Officer for Higher Education* – Bertrand Dupé introduces himself and his scientific background. As key tasks, he mentions the organization of bids for ESM and to ensure the high quality of ESM in the years to come. As officer, he would oversee the execution of ESM on-site and he would always be open for suggestions for improvements and new input.

After presentation of the four items, an open vote is conducted. GC members in the room with voting rights vote by raising their hand; online participants with voting rights vote via the poll option in zoom. Different excused GC members have delegated their vote to other GC members (see table EXCUSED PARTICIPANTS for details).

VOTING RESULTS

1. EMA's signature of the CoARA agreement is unanimously approved by all participants with voting rights.
2. The ambition to tightening of the links with the IUPAP C9 commission (magnetism) and ICM is unanimously approved by all participants with voting rights.
3. Diana Leitao is unanimously approved as Officer for Industrial Relations by all participants with voting rights.
4. Bertrand Dupé abstains from voting. He is unanimously approved as Officer for Higher Education by the other participants with voting rights.

7. PROPOSED NEW EMA STRATEGIES

Oliver Fruchart presents new strategies proposed for EMA. The strategies are motivated by the outcome of the survey, which EMA conducted between January 1st and February 28th, 2023. In total, 310 answers were received, addressing topics, such as "What is membership?", "How to reach out and involve young scientists?", "Work closer with national societies.", "Feeling about hybrid events.", and "Feeling about open science and proceedings."

To define respective strategies, different commissions were set up involving volunteering Officers and members of the GC. Afterwards, white papers were proposed in which the strategies were outlined, and a call for comments from members of the GC was sent out in July 2023. Input is still welcome and can be included before public dissemination of the strategy documents.

The four proposed strategies are:

- **EMA Young Officer:** An open call was launched for nominations for potential candidates. The deadline for nominations is September 15th, 2023 (details can be found at <https://magnetism.eu/260-nomination-for-the-ema-young-officer.htm>).
- **Link with European National Societies:** EMA wishes to improve the connection / communication / interaction of the National Societies in Europe. A strategy document has been provided to the GC before the meeting for information and feedback.
- **EMA membership:** It is very important to create a stronger feeling of belonging to EMA. At the same time, it is crucial that EMA remains inclusive and open for all. A potential income should not be too large, but sufficient to enable actions that help the community. Details remain to be discussed and defined. A strategy document has been provided to the GC before the meeting for information and feedback.
- **Proceedings:** The objective is to establish a stable format for JEMS (with or without proceedings) and enhance the visibility and usefulness of the event, and to promote presentation of new results. A proposal for a strategy on proceedings has been drafted and distributed to the general council in July 2023 for information and feedback.

In general, the GC is positive about the proposed activities and welcomes the new strategies. Olivier Fruchart emphasizes that input and opinions are welcome at all times.

COMMENTS

- Burkard Hillebrands mentions that the term “umbrella organization” was initially used in connection with EMA and he feels that it has a positive connotation, describing the mission of EMA well.
- Anatoli Sidorenko says that for him, networking and visibility are connected. Creating a network is not enough and dissemination is essential, too. As an example, he mentions a book he presented for outreach and dissemination and says it is explicitly useful in the communication with the authorities. In response, Olivier Fruchart highlights EMA’s communication team and the excellent channels they maintain for disseminating magnetism-related information.
- Riccardo Bertacco comments on the connection between EMA and national societies, mentioning that the situation is not uniform within EU. Thus, EMA cannot act as a national chapter as in the case of IEEE. He feels that the term “umbrella organization” is not bad. He proposes that persons who are representatives at EMA should be from the national societies to ensure good links and alignment. He also mentions that national societies have different membership policies.
 - o Olivier Fruchart agrees with the latter point and emphasizes that nothing has been decided; details are to be discussed.
 - o Riccardo Bertacco says that membership can give a small budget one can count on – donations will not allow for this. He suggests that EMA may not just rely on donations, but take a small amount of money from events.
 - o Here, Olivier Fruchart comments that some flexibility is needed to account for national differences. For examples, for some members it is preferential to pay membership, whereas others prefer donations. In some countries individual membership cannot be covered by grants, while in some others it is donations that cannot be covered this way.
 - o Nora Dempsey points out that the later point could be addressed by having respective bi-lingual documents.
 - o Olivier Fruchart emphasizes that it is important that no competing with national societies arises.
- Agustina Asenjo Barahona suggests taking fees from EMA events (e.g., 10 €), which can give stability.
- Daniela Petti asks how many proceedings are usually published at other meetings. Oliver Fruchart answers that the numbers are typically quite low. However, if a different way can be identified, it may become more attractive.
- Cathrine Frandsen is not in favor of proceedings, but she feels that having JEMS-related manuscripts on arXiv might be helpful, also to get reviewers. She says it could be nice to do something different than the other conferences.
- Dieter Suess mentions the possibility to include links to preprints in abstracts to show that they are available.

8. PROPOSAL OF THE GC FOR OTHER NEW EMA ACTIONS & AND DISCUSSION

Nora Dempsey informs that she plans to review the financial model of JEMS. In addition, she plans to review the respective roles of the International Advisory Committee and EMA in the running of JEMS. This is work in progress and more information will follow.

This initiative is received positively by the GC members and there are no arguments against it.

AGENDA FOR NEXT YEAR: KEY DATES

Olivier Fruchart presents important dates for 2023:

EVENTS

- Young scientist award
 - o 1 November, 2022: call
 - o 31 January, 2023: deadline
 - o 1 May, 2023: result
- ICM 2024 Bologna: 30 June – 5 July
- ESM 2024 York: 27 August – 6 September
 - JEMS 2025: bid under way. (Note: after the GC meeting, it was decided that JEMS 2025 will take place in Darmstadt, Germany)
 - ESM 2025 onwards: bid under way. (Note: after the GC meeting, it was decided that the ESM 2025 will take place in Liège, Belgium)
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ASSOCIATION

- Partial renewal of GC
 - o 01 April, 2024: call
 - o 01 May: start voting process
 - o 01 June: results disclosed
- Next GC meeting: during ICM 2024

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.