



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

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Audit Committee: Philippe Bisch (France), Panayotis Carydis (Greece)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Number: 5

Date: April 25, 2010

Place: Ohrid, Macedonia

Attendance:

Martin Koller, President

Mihail Garevski, Vice President

Atilla Ansal, Secretary General

Peter Fajfar

Rainer Flesch

Andreas J Kappos

Carlos S Oliveira

Dario Slejko, ESC Representative

Absentee:

Robin Spence, Vice President

Mauro Dolce

Jacob Eisenberg

Prologue:

The fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of European Association for Earthquake Engineering for 2006-2010 Period was held in Ohrid, Macedonia on Sunday, April 25, 2010 between 9:00 and 17:00 hours and chaired by the President. The first half of the meeting was the joint meeting of EAAE Executive Committee and 14th ECEE Local Organizing Committee.

Agenda:

1. *Approval of the Agenda*
 2. *Introduction by the President*
 3. *Vice President M. Garevski: Report of the LOC of 14th ECEE*
 4. *EAAE Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Lectureship Plaque and 2012 Nominations Committee*
 5. *Central Office Activities for 2009-2010 term*
 6. *Budget and Financial Matters*
 7. *EAAE Statutes and Postal Balloting*
 8. *General Assembly Guidelines*
 9. *Regional Seminar and 7th TNCEE*
 10. *Task Groups, Joint Task Groups with ESC*
 11. *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering*
 12. *Miscellaneous*
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Item 1: The proposed Agenda was approved and the minutes of the Fourth Executive Committee Meeting were signed by all the Executive Committee Members present.

Item 2: The President welcomed the members to the Fifth Executive Committee Meeting and thanked especially to the Local Organising Committee of 14th ECEE for their invitation to Ohrid and for all their efforts for the conference. The President reminded the decision of the EAEE-ESC Joint Executive Committee Meeting held in Crete on the cooperation between ongoing conferences and expressed the importance of the common EAEE and ESC block on engineering seismology that will take place in this conference not only because it will be the first time but also for improving the exchange between engineers and seismologists.

Item 3: The Vice President, Mihail Garevski welcomed and thanked to the Executive Committee Members for their support as the International Organising Committee of the Conference. He mentioned that Local Organising Committee (LOC) has a scheduled meeting every Monday and each member with the responsibility on different aspects of the organisation reports the progress weekly to the Committee. After Vice President's introduction of the LOC Members to the Executive Committee, each LOC member made a presentation about his/her own role concerning the conference organisation.

Conference web site which includes the database of the conference was shown to the Executive Committee Members. According to the database, there are 1900 authors and 1643 abstracts that were registered. Among the registered participants 1168 are the corresponding authors and 2000 are the co-authors. 56% of the abstracts were received from Non-European countries and 44% from Europe. Iran and Italy are the countries from where the highest numbers of the abstracts were received. Turkey, Japan, USA and Portugal followed these countries.

Even though the number of abstracts were high, the number of papers received since the day of EC meeting was limited. The Vice President, Mihail Garevski informed that the deadline for paper submission was planned to be postponed to June 1st instead of May 1st. Secretary General suggested not to delay the deadline more than May 15, since this may bring problem to the organisation schedule concerning review process and recommended the proper selection of the reviewers to homogenise the decision of oral and poster presentations. The Vice President explained that after the paper was received, it was sent immediately to the reviewers. The President agreed to keep the deadline as soon as possible because based on his previous experience, it may take a lot of time to send and get back improperly formatted papers. He also mentioned that the LOC should be tight on the decision of oral and poster acceptance deadline since most of the researchers can not register without acceptance.

Executive Committee members were informed about the student grants that will be given to maximum 30 students (MSc or PhD) under the age of 32 and will cover registration fee, full board accommodation and some contribution to the travel expenses. Among 103 applications 30 were selected according to agreed criteria by the two sponsors, Swiss Society for Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics, SGEB and Macedonian Association for Earthquake Engineering, MAEE.

There are three levels of sponsorship opportunities (platinum, gold and silver) available to companies and suppliers for 14ECEE. 14ECEE Exhibition will be organized for approximately 16 places with standard exhibit booths in the Conference Venue (Metropol Hotel).

The conference programme was said to be arranged taking into account that the common block of engineering seismology sessions to be scheduled during the last three days of the Conference. Since the conference venue has nine rooms and due to 5 days conference duration, there will be 11 parallel session sets that will allow more than 500 oral presentations. It was recommended to have keynote lectures only in the morning. Depending on the keynote lecture number one keynote session can be scheduled after lunch. Dario Slejko commented on the scheduling of poster sessions recommending that they should not be scheduled just after lunch, it may be better to schedule together with coffee break in the afternoon. Martin Koller suggested arranging some possible places to have lunch at the Conference Venue (Metropol Hotel) for those who may prefer to stay after morning sessions instead of going to his/her hotel. Executive Committee Members also recommended to keep number of parallel sessions as minimum as possible like five to six at most.

LOC informed the Executive Committee also about the hotel accommodation. For the needs of the Conference, the Organizing Committee of the 14 ECEE has booked approximately 700 hotels rooms in the hotel in the vicinity.

For the case of having more than 600 participants, plenary sessions will be held in a temporary facility constructed as a tent structure on the sport area of the Metropol Hotel.

LOC will arrange shuttle buses for the airport transportation from three airports: Skopje, Tiran, and Thessaloniki. The participants can use this opportunity by sending a shuttle request form before arriving to Ohrid. The transportation will be free of charge at the beginning and at the end of the conference. Secretary General warned Local Committee that they should also take into account the free transportation in the middle of the week before ESC – EAEE common block. The information on airport transportation has been added to the Conference web site.

The social programme of the Conference was reported as Ice Braking on Sunday, Get Together on Monday, Gala Dinner on Wednesday evenings and Ohrid Lake Cruise on Friday afternoon.

Secretary General reminded the local organising committee about the schedule of the EAEE Meetings during the conference which is as follows: The 6th Executive Committee Meeting on Sunday August, 29; the Association Council on Tuesday August, 31 (dinner for all Delegates and election of the Conference City for 2014); the General Assembly on Thursday September, 2 between 8:00-10:00pm (with refreshments and buffet dinner); and the first meeting of the elected Executive Committee on Friday September, 3 after the Closing Ceremony.

ESC Representative, Dario Slejko distributed the final announcement of ESC General Assembly that will be held just after 14ECEE during 6-10 September in Montpellier, France and gave a summary report to both Executive Committee and Local Organising Committee Members. He mentioned about the ESC sessions that may interest engineers which are: seismic hazard, scenarios, geological assessment, new standards, site effects, machine learning and seismic risk analysis. During ESC General Assembly ESC-EAEE common block will be scheduled at the beginning 2 days of the conference.

The joint meeting of EAEE Executive Committee and 14th ECEE Local Organizing Committee ended with a tour of Conference Hotel and rooms.

Item 4: Prof. Theodoros Tassios had previously been elected as the first Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award winner by the Awards Committee to give his lecture during the 14th ECEE. Secretary General showed Executive Committee Members few different Commemorative Plaque alternatives designed to be given to the Award winners starting with Prof. Tassios. The design that is selected will be prepared as a mould to be used in the future only the written part on the plaque will be modified in the future conferences or ESC General Assemblies.

Executive Committee members commented on the alternatives. The President, Martin Koller noted that the name of the conference place and title of the lecture should be written on the Plaque.

Secretary General reminded that a new selection committee for the 2nd Ambraseys Lecture should be appointed. It was agreed by the Executive Committee that new elected Executive Committee should appoint the second Awards Committee.

Secretary General proposed to revise the "Guidelines for Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award" by adding the statement that all expenses of the award winner will be covered by the conference organisation committee.

Item 5: The Report of the Central Office Activities for the term June 2009 - April 2010 was presented by the Secretary General, summarising the activities related to the EAEE Executive Committee, EAEE Newsletter, EAEE Web page, and EAEE Memberships.

Executive Committee approved by postal balloting the following proposal: Approval for paying approximately 613€ based on the conversion rate on the invoice date to the Audit Company for the Audit report cost.

The second EAEE Newsletter of 2010 (Vol. 27, No. 2) will be published after this Executive Committee Meeting minutes are approved by the Executive Committee. The study on updating EAEE web pages such that it will be professionally designed together with the database behind it with a search engine included in BEE page is still ongoing.

Recent membership situation was reviewed; numbers of paid and unpaid members for the first half of 2010 were given. Central Office had sent and will send the most recent list of individual members who paid membership dues for 2010 to the Local Organising Committee of 14thECEE. These members will get a 50 Euros of registration fee reduction during the registration of the Conference.

EAEE National Member Associations that have not paid their National membership dues for 2010 were informed that they should pay their unpaid dues before August 30 in order to attend EAEE Association Council and General Assembly.

Item 6: Secretary General presented the budget given below for the term of June 2009-April 2010.

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
BALANCE FROM JUNE 2009	4,546.18 €	
Membership fees from		
<i>National Members</i>	3,506.47 €	
<i>Corporate Members</i>	196.00 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic Subs.</i>	1,562.20 €	
<i>Individual Members - Paper Copy Subs.</i>	1,165.50 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic+Paper Copy Subs.</i>	392.00 €	
Secretary of the Central Office		-
Office Expences		
<i>Auditing Cost</i>		587.00 €
<i>Newsletter printing</i>		-
<i>Rate for bank account and Interest</i>		228.46 €
SPRINGER		
<i>Hard Copy</i>		2,056.00 €
<i>Electronic (2009)</i>		750.00 €
SUM	11,368.35 €	3,621.46 €
DIFFERENCE		7,746.89 €
SPRINGER DEBT (Hardcopy+Electronic 2010)		955.00 €
BALANCE FOR APRIL 2010		6,791.89 €

In the present situation the incomes and the expenditures were 11,368.35 € and 3,621.46 €, respectively with a balance of 7,746.89 € from which 955.00 € (750.00 € for electronic subscription) is EAEE's recent debt to Springer. The budget was approved by the Executive Committee.

Item 7: Secretary General informed the Executive Committee about the latest situation of Postal Balloting on EAEE Statutes change to adopt a more balanced voting system among National and Individual Members where the vote of the Delegates of the National Members will be proportional with the number of members of the corresponding National Societies. Before this Executive Committee Meeting, among 33 National Associations 17 positive votes and 1 negative vote were received and 15 National Members had not replied yet. Among 51 Individual Members who have the right to vote (who paid membership dues for the last three years) 20 positive votes had been received, which means that the total amount of received votes are not enough to conclude the Postal Balloting.

Secretary General stated that if this situation does not change until the General Assembly to be held in Ohrid there will be two options. First option would be to forget about the modifications in the Statutes since no enough votes were received, and the second option is to have the voting as first item in the General Assembly. However, if second option is adopted then a new problem arises which is if the voting results positively than how the new voting procedure will be for the election of new Executive and Audit Committee Members. Executive Committee Members were against to forget the changes and continue with the old Statue, they supported to finalise Postal Balloting before General Assembly. The President suggested Secretary General to call the national delegates personally to push them to give their votes positive or negative. Andreas Kappos proposed that the new modification of EAEE Statutes should be discussed in the forthcoming General Assembly so there will be a chance to explain the reasons after it.

Item 8: Secretary General showed the Executive Committee the new proposed General Assembly Guidelines which will be applicable after the Postal Balloting finishes. The Guidelines organise officially who will attend the General Assembly and how the voting scheme will be.

As soon as the EAEE Statutes change is approved, the new voting scheme will be adopted and applied in the General Assembly. The Executive Committee approved the "General Assembly Guidelines".

Executive Committee Member, Andreas Kappos was selected to be in charge of explaining the reasons after the statutes change during the General Assembly to be held in Ohrid.

Item 9: Secretary General briefly summarised the situation concerning EAEE Task Groups.

Victor Rutenberg, Coordinator of TG8 on "Seismic Behaviour of Irregular and Complex Structures" wants to resign from being the Coordinator, and he proposed Mario De Stefano as the new Coordinator of TG8.

Secretary General told that John Douglas and his group will propose a new group since they are leaving the management of databank to another group.

Secretary General reminded that common Task Groups with ESC should follow ESC regulations like reporting every year. He also mentioned the difficulties concerning how to keep the TGs active and proposed to have representatives of active societies such as ASISI in Executive Committee. Andreas Kappos repeated his opinion that it is needed to monitor outcomes of TGs which may be a report or deliverable of any meeting, special issue, book etc. He also proposed to have an evaluation committee for Task Groups.

Secretary General will write a letter to TG Coordinators to ask an activity report for the last period and their proposed activity report for the next period, and will warn the Coordinators that if their activities are not enough Executive Committee may decide to end the activities the TG.

Item 10: Secretary General presented the ongoing studies by Turkish Earthquake Foundation - Earthquake Engineering Committee to organise the 21st Regional Earthquake Engineering Seminar.

The seminar will be held in June 16-18, 2010 at Işık University Şile Campus Istanbul, Turkey and the topic of the seminar is specialised as “Seismic Assessment and Retrofit of Bridges”. The seminar will combine contributions from young researchers and engineers with keynote lectures. The lectures will present state-of-the-art lectures on the seismic assessment and retrofit of bridges given by leading earthquake engineers mostly from Europe and are members of EAEE Task Group 11 on “Seismic Design, Assessment, and Retrofit of Bridges”. Each EAEE Member Society will nominate two young researchers (age below 35 years) that can submit abstracts and take part in the Regional Seminar free of charge. Other participants (except keynote speakers) are expected to pay a registration fee. Rooms will be reserved for young researchers at the student dormitories in Işık University Şile Campus for accommodation.

Executive Committee was informed that there are two nominee cities to organise the 2nd European Conference on Earthquake Engineering and Seismology to be held in 2014: Istanbul and Vienna. Proposal by Austrian Association was presented shortly by Rainer Flesch. He distributed a draft document that includes application letters of organising committees, invitation letters, information on conference venue and possible dates and information on conference city (accommodation, travel, attractions etc.). Information on the proposal by Turkish Association was given by Atilla Ansal with some notes on planned conference details.

Secretary General informed the Executive Committee about the details of the elections that will be done during both 14thECEE in Ohrid and ESC General Assembly in Montpellier since the forthcoming conference will be a joint conference of two organisations. The first voting will be on EAEE Association Council on August 31. 33 National Delegates and 4 Executive Committee Members who are not National Delegates will vote, with the total number of 37 votes. During the ESC General Assembly the voting will be on September 9 with total number of 56 votes of Titular Members and ESC Executive Committee Members. The conference city will be elected based on the total votes of two organisations. Candidates will make same proposals and presentations to both organisations.

Item 11: Secretary General briefly summarised the updated report on situation of Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering. He emphasised one important assets of BEE which is the Special Issues. He gave the names of new Special Issue proposals that were received and are in line for publication. The number of submitted manuscripts increased a lot indicating the increasing popularity of BEE. Manuscripts are received mostly from European researchers. In the first half of 2010, BEE received 65 articles, whereas the number of manuscripts submitted was only 26 for the whole year in 2003. Starting from this year, BEE is being published as six issues per year to meet the increasing number of manuscripts. Impact Factor is also increasing each year especially with the involvement of engineering seismology papers.

Secretary General noted that eight years of service in the Editorial Board is completed in this year. At the present, Editorial Board is composed of 31 distinguished researchers and Springer

wants to keep the number approximately at 30s. Among 31 Editorial Board Members eight members will be retiring. Seven new Editorial Board Members will be selected to replace them in order to meet the need of active reviewers for increased number of manuscript submissions. He stated that there are some people who contribute very much in the progress of BEE who are very suitable as the new board members. The new members will be invited to the Editorial Board Meeting to be held in Ohrid during 14ECEE.

Item 12:

Executive Committee Member Carlos Oliveira distributed the first (draft) announcement of the 15th World Conference of Earthquake Engineering that will be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 24-28 September 2012. The Executive Committee decided to be a supporter of the World Conference, and agreed to jointly collaborate and support other similar conferences especially held in Europe.

It was decided to have the next Executive Committee Meeting which will be the last one for the 2006-2010 period in Ohrid before the 14ECEE on August 29, 2010 afternoon at 14:00. In this Executive Committee Meeting the participant list of the General Assembly will be approved. Before the Meeting the members will be asked to designate their list of nominees for the new Executive Committee that will be elected in the General Assembly.

Epilogue: The fifth meeting of the EAEE Executive Committee held in Ohrid ended with the thanks of the President to all participating members especially to Mihael Garevski for his very kind invitation and hospitality of all members of Local Organising Committee of 14thECEE. The Executive Committee Meeting is finished with the wish to meet at the same place for the Conference next time.

Atilla Ansal
Secretary General