



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

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Honorary Members: N.Ambraseys (UK), D.Anicic (Croatia), G.Grandori (Italy), A.A.Moinfar (Iran)

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Number: 3

Date: September 7, 2008

Place: Crete, Greece

Attendance:

Martin Koller, President

Robin Spence, Vice President

Mihail Garevski, Vice President

Atilla Ansal, Secretary General

Rainer Flesch, Treasurer

Andreas J Kappos

Carlos S Oliveira

Dario Slejko, ESC Representative

Absentee:

Mauro Dolce

Jacob Eisenberg

Peter Fajfar

Prologue:

The third meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering for 2006-2010 Period was held in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece on Sunday afternoon September 7, 2008 between 14:00 and 19:00 hours on the occasion of the 31st General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission (ESC) following the EAAE-ESC Joint Executive Committee meeting. The EAAE Executive Committee meeting was chaired by the President.

Agenda:

1. *Approval of the Agenda*
 2. *Introduction by the President and Assessment of EAAE-ESC Joint Meeting*
 3. *Vice President M.Garevski: Developments concerning ECEE 2010*
 4. *Vice President R.Spence: Recent developments in EU activities*
 5. *Central Office Report for 2007-2008 term*
 6. *Selection Guidelines for EAAE Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Lectureship*
 7. *Revised Rules for EAAE Task Groups*
 8. *EAAE Statutes*
 9. *Task Group Activities*
 10. *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering*
 11. *Miscellaneous*
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Item 1: The proposed Agenda was approved and the minutes of the Second Executive Committee Meeting were signed by all the Executive Committee Members present.

Item 2: The President welcomed the members to the Third Executive Committee Meeting and expressed his contentment about the EAEE-ESC Joint Executive Committee Meeting held in the morning.

The basic agreements reached during the Joint EAEE-ESC Executive Committee can be summarised as:

1. To organise joint conferences every eight years. The proposals to organise joint conferences should be submitted by both EAEE and ESC National Members. Both applications to EAEE and ESC Executive Committees and both presentations to EAEE and ESC General Assemblies should be identical. In the case of more than one application, the selection of the location will be based on the total number of the votes casted in both General Assemblies.
2. To organise special sessions that would interest ESC members during EAEE Conferences and vice versa to organise special sessions that would interest earthquake engineers in ESC General Assemblies. It was agreed that these special sessions should be scheduled as a block either at the beginning or at the end and it should be possible to register only to this block of sessions at reduced registration rate.
3. In the year of separate conferences (e.g. 2010), the common block of engineering seismology is hosted by the ECEE, and the same subject is a poster only session at the ESC General Assembly. During the years without EAEE conference, the common block is hosted by the ESC General Assembly, and EAEE encourages its members to attend this common block.
4. To support and encourage joint activities among EAEE Task Groups and ESC Working Groups. Both ESC and EAEE should inform all their members via web pages and Newsletters about the EAEE-ESC Joint Working groups.
5. To establish an interaction between EAEE and ESC to improve and enhance the Strategic Research Agenda and related activities.
6. To organise joint Executive Committee Meetings during EAEE conferences and during ESC General Assemblies in between.
7. To prepare joint training courses during the ESC General Assemblies.
8. To prepare and submit joint training course proposals to FP7 and other funding agencies.

The President emphasised that even though a great achievement was made at the joint meeting, it would only be alive if both organisations keep supporting joint activities in every occasion. There was a general agreement that it is important to have decided to initiate the interaction of two associations on the Strategic Research Agenda. It was also decided to support EAEE-ESC Joint Working Groups and to inform all EAEE members via EAEE web pages and Newsletter about the EAEE-ESC Joint Working Groups that would be open to those who may be interested.

The President recommended that Vice President, Mihail Garevski should try to implement what EAEE agreed together with ESC in the forthcoming ECEE in 2010.

Item 3: The Vice President Mihail Garevski presented a summary concerning 2010 conference preparations. He mentioned that the preparation activities started with the design of the first announcement. Sufficient number (5000) of copies of the first announcement was printed to be distributed during the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Beijing, China. Besides, a booth was reserved in the Exhibition Hall to present the promotional posters. Web pages for the 14th ECEE will be ready before the World Conference. He pointed out that all efforts would be made to announce the 14th ECEE at every possible occasion to increase the participation of all related international groups.

The Vice President proposed to have “Disaster Management” as one of the conference themes and to invite one keynote speaker on this topic. The Executive Committee supported the idea of having a session and one keynote lecture on disaster management. Sálvano Briceño (Director, Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN/ISDR) was proposed as a potential keynote speaker.

The proposal of the Vice President Mihail Garevski to invite one or two keynote lecturers from Japan, China and USA was welcomed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee recommended that the conference city should only be announced as Skopje and the name of Ohri should be deleted also from the logo of the conference.

Mihail Garevski suggested to present the list of keynote speakers to the Executive Committee before the end of this year and also proposed to organise one of the future Executive Committee meetings in Skopje. The Executive Committee welcomed these proposals.

It was suggested that it will be necessary to announce the list of invited lecturers, the first draft program with sessions and topics along with the names of the scientific and organising committees in the second announcement.

The Executive Committee recommended that the keynotes be printed as a volume in the Springer Book Series on Geotechnical, Geological, and Earthquakes Engineering, and all the accepted papers should be in a locally produced CD as the conference proceedings.

It was emphasized that in China where a big campaign of conference promotion will be carried on, it is important to inform people about the web site of the conference and the deadline of abstract submission and this information that is absent on the first announcement should be given as a poster on the booth or by applying a sticker on the announcements.

The Executive Committee after thorough discussion decided to recommend that abstracts and full papers should be reviewed by the members of the Scientific Committee and those that are commercially oriented and unrelated with the selected themes for the conference should be declined. The type of presentation, whether it will be an oral or a poster presentation should be based on the review of the full paper.

The Executive Committee agreed on three deadlines: abstract submission as 1 year, keynote submission as 6 months and full paper submission as 4 months prior to the conference.

The Executive Committee recommended not to plan for more than 4-5 parallel sessions in the conference program. It was also suggested that it would be preferable if posters are presented during the whole conference and if time wise possible, it would be preferable to have short 3-5 min oral presentations for each poster during the poster sessions.

Item 4: Vice President Robin Spence summarised the major activities related to EU. He proposed three topics that need to be discussed in the meeting:

- (a) The Report to the European Parliament that was adopted by the regional committee of the European Parliament at a meeting in October. This report very concisely covers all of the related topics on earthquake risk mitigation. However, a report does not have a significant impact on the application. An EU resolution or an EU decree could be much more effective for the initiation of earthquake risk mitigation measures in the member states. Therefore EAEE Executive Committee decided to recommend to EAEE National and Individual Members from EU Countries that it is necessary to lobby for the support of the member states and respective EU parliamentarians to increase their awareness about the earthquake problems and to initiate actions for earthquake risk mitigation measures.
- (b) Brussels Meeting: The participants (A.Ansal & C.Oliveira) summarised their impressions concerning the meeting on “The Reduction of Earthquake Risks in Europe” held on 13 March 2008 in Brussels. There was a general agreement that EAEE should continue along these lines and should try to organise smaller groups to lobby in the member states and also keep the communication active with the Brussels.

The Executive Committee elected Mauro Dolce, Robin Spence, and Rainer Flesch as the members and Carlos Oliveira as the Chairman of EAEE European Activities Committee. It was also decided that the Committee can be enlarged with addition of new volunteers such as Mario Lopes and Helmut Wenzel.

- (c) The Strategic Research Agenda: Robin Spence suggested that Strategic Research Agenda should be updated. It was suggested that summary sheet of the whole document can be more easily reviewed and updated and it would be appropriate if Robin Spence would take the responsibility of revising the document.

Item 5: The Report of the Central Office Activities for the term September 2007 - September 2008 was presented by the Secretary General, summarising the activities related to the EAEE Executive Committee, EAEE Memberships, Budget, EAEE Newsletter, EAEE Web pages, EAEE participation to the FP7 Project SERIES, and about the Brussels meeting on "The Reduction of Earthquake Risks in Europe", and the meeting on the "European Earthquake Engineering Protection Initiative" in Milan.

After sufficient discussion, the Executive Committee decided that EAEE should not participate in the "European Earthquake Engineering Protection Initiative" in the future.

The Secretary General reviewed the Executive Committee decisions approved by postal balloting for having them as official items in the Minutes of an Executive Committee meeting:

1. Executive Committee decided to invite Prof. Jakob Eisenberg to the EAEE Executive Committee as the first Reserve Member to replace late Prof. Emilia Juhasova on 24/8/2008.
2. Executive Committee approved the expenditure of 525€ related to the publication of the EAEE Brochure and posters to be distributed and displayed in the forthcoming conferences on 28/6/2008
3. Executive Committee approved the expenditure of 613€ for the Audit report on 13/4/2008.
4. Executive Committee approved that Individual Members should pay all their membership fees for the previous consecutive four years in order to participate to the EAEE General Assembly, to vote and to be candidate for any post in EAEE on 13/4/2008.

Secretary General presented the budget given below for the term of September 2007-2008.

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
BALANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2007	1,136.13 €	
Membership fees from		
<i>National Members</i>	2,774.00 €	
<i>Corporate Members</i>	196.00 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic Subs.</i>	1,599.60 €	
<i>Individual Members - Paper Copy Subs.</i>	639.00 €	
<i>Individual Members - Electronic+Paper Copy Subs.</i>	294.00 €	
Secretary of the Central Office		2,750.00 €
Office Expenses		
<i>Auditing Cost</i>		613.00 €
<i>Rate for bank account and Interest</i>		73.94 €
SPRINGER		
<i>Hard Copy(2007+2008)</i>		1,753.00 €
SUM	6,638.73 €	5,189.94 €
DIFFERENCE		1,448.79 €
SPRINGER DEBT		839.00 €
BALANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 2008		609.79 €

The budget was controlled by the Treasurer Rainer Flesch as of July, 2008. In the present situation the incomes and the expenditures were 6,638.73 € and 5,189.94 €, respectively with a balance of 1,448.79 € from which 839.00 € (750.00 € for electronic subscription) is EAEE's recent debt to Springer. The budget was approved by the Executive Committee.

Secretary General informed the Executive Committee about the increases in EAEE membership prices for BEE Volume 7 (2009). The share of Springer will be increased from 162€ to 174€ for Organisational members and from 43€ to 46€ for individual members with paper copy subscription. It was agreed to ask all National Delegates whether they prefer to receive paper copy and if the National Associations prefer to have paper copy, they will be charged 75€ otherwise they will be required to pay only 50€ starting from 2009.

Item 6: The Executive Committee previously decided to establish EAEE Award Lecture to honour Prof. Nicholas N. Ambraseys to be presented in every European Conference on Earthquake Engineering with the First Lecture to be presented during the 14th ECEE, Skopje. The draft Guidelines for Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award prepared by the Central Office were discussed in detail.

It was decided to present the award with two years intervals; every four years during European Conferences on Earthquake Engineering and in between two years during the General Assemblies of the European Seismological Commission. Later this proposal was approved by the ESC Executive Committee.

Executive Committee agreed to appoint an Awards Committee composed of five members for the selection of the Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award and to revise the Guidelines accordingly. The first Awards Committee was appointed as composed of A.Ansal (Chairman), A.Kappos, M.Koller, R.Flesch. It was decided to ask one member from ESC and later ESC proposed D.Slejko as the fifth Committee member. The call for nominations will be announced via EAEE Newsletter and EAEE web pages. It was agreed that nominations can be submitted by all EAEE Individual Members, Delegates of National and Organisational Members as well as members of EAEE National Societies until the end of March 2009 with a cover letter giving the reasons of nominations. All the revisions proposed for "Guidelines for Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award" were approved by the Executive Committee.

Item 7: Secretary General presented the draft Rules for EAEE Task Groups with the revisions as proposed in the previous Executive Committee Meeting. The revised version was circulated among the Coordinators of all Task Groups and in general the revised version received positive response from most of the TG Coordinators. It was decided to revise the language of the document to enable more flexibility to the Coordinators. All the revisions proposed for "Rules for EAEE Task Groups" were approved by the Executive Committee.

Item 8: Executive Committee Member Andreas Kappos summarised his suggestions related to the rationalization of decision-making process within the EAEE. His proposal was to modify the EAEE Statutes by assigning different weights to Individual and National Members such that as in most similar international organisations important decisions can be taken by the assembly of national delegates.

Executive Committee discussed the possible changes in EAEE Statutes in detail and it was decided to adopt and inquire if it will be possible according to the Turkish Association Laws,

- To adopt delegate system for all types of memberships such that each National Association will be represented in the EAEE General Assembly by one (1) delegate for every 100 members of the National Society and Individual Members will be represented by one (1) delegate for every 100 Individual members that will be elected by balloting among the Individual Members participating to the Conference 24 hours prior to the General Assembly.

- The Executive Committee agreed to reinstate a Secretary post in the Executive Committee who will be elected by the Executive Committee as in the previous EAEE Statutes that was omitted in the existing Statutes.

Item 9: The activities of the Task Groups were reviewed based on the reports received by the Central Office as a response to the inquiry forwarded to all TG Coordinator. Coordinators of TG5 (Prof. Alessandro Martelli), TG6 (Prof. Kyriasiz Pitilakis), TG7 (Prof. Roy T. Severn), TG8 (Prof. Victor Rutenberg) and TG11 (Prof. Andreas Kappos) reported their activities. The other coordinators did not respond except Mauro Dolce, who stated that due to very heavy duties he could not comply with guidelines of TG activities and he would check if he could find someone as the coordinator of TG3. Prof. Severn suggested that Prof. M. Fardis should be invited to be new Coordinator for TG7 since he is involved very actively on infrastructure and testing facilities.

Item 10: Secretary General briefly summarised the situation of Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering. He explained that BEE has been selected by ISI and was included in SCIE and CC/Engineering, Computing, and Technology Index starting from the first issue of 2007 and received its first impact factor for 2007 recently as 1.125. With this impact factor BEE ranked as the second among the presently SSI indexed five Earthquake Engineering Journals.

Secretary General presented the numbers of submitted, published, in printing, under review, rejected and withdrawn manuscripts during the last year in comparison with the previous years. He summarised the six (three forthcoming, three starting in few months) new Special Issue proposals that were received during the past year. He mentioned that since number of submitted manuscripts is increasing steadily, he is expecting that most likely in 2010 it will be feasible to have 6 issues per year.

Item 10: It was decided to have the next Executive Committee Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday June 21, 2009 just before the First International Conference on Earthquakes & Tsunamis, Civil Engineering Mitigation Activities Implementing Millennium Development Goals.

Epilogue: The third meeting of the EAEE Executive Committee held in Crete ended with the thanks of the President to all participating members.

Atilla Ansal
Secretary General