



EG11.49

26 January 2011

Minutes

Meeting	EuroGOOS 18th Annual General Meeting
Date/time	13-15 December, 2011
Venue	CNR Headquarters, Rome

All referenced documents are available on www.eurogoos.org under “Documents”.

1 Welcome from Director of the CNR Earth and Environment Department

Dr Enrico Brugnoli welcomed everybody to CNR and Peter Ehlers reminded the participants of the inspiring EuroGOOS Conference in Rome in 1999.

2 EuroGOOS Annual Reports

- EuroGOOS Chair (EG11.38)
The Chair briefly summarised his report. The year has very much focused on the future role of EuroGOOS.
- EuroGOOS Director (EG11.39)
The Director presented a summary of his report. EuroGOOS consists of the members and the Director tries to represent the best interest of all members. He reminded the meeting that 14 December is the 17th Anniversary of the birth of EuroGOOS.
Following a question about JCOMM4 representation, Trevor Guymmer urged the meeting participants to find out about the leader of their national delegation for JCOMM-IV and keep them informed about joint interests so that the marine part has a more coordinated presence. EuroGOOS should try to influence JCOMM through national delegations as well as being present as an observer association.

3 EuroGOOS relations with the EEA (European Environment Agency)

The Office has a good dialogue with the EEA. A few years ago the EuroGOOS Office submitted a proposal (MICON) together with the ROOSs to investigate requirements for in situ data. The EEA submitted a simpler proposal and received financing, but now uses the ROOSs to get the necessary information. ROOS chairs are invited to meetings at the EEA. This requires strong coordination of EuroGOOS ideas.

Concerning the future of GMES, a letter has been signed by the responsible ministers from a number of countries asking the EC to re-introduce GMES into the EC budget.

4 Progression of plans for ECOMF (European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting) (presentation EG11.52)

Pierre Bahurel presented information and ideas based on the points raised by the EuroGOOS discussion on ECOMF in Sopot (EG11.25).

5 Discussion on the future of EuroGOOS

The participants presented their views of the future role of EuroGOOS. See separate document EG11.51.

Action: Office to send the Tour de Table document to members to check their input as soon as possible.

Action: Board to re-visit the objectives and amend if necessary so that they agree with members views.

In the discussion the following points were brought up:

- It is difficult for members to get more involved as there are already so many initiatives. However what is really needed is a user-driven EuroGOOS as highlighted in the UK paper (EG11.44). This needs commitments from the members and from the Office to the members.
- EuroGOOS should be independent and therefore not be involved in commercial enterprises.
- The link between ECOMF and EuroGOOS needs to be clarified. EuroGOOS could act as a coordinating body.
- Specific consideration has to be given to in-situ measurements; here EuroGOOS could play a leading role.
- The EuroGOOS strategy should be reviewed, taken also into account the ideas in the EGFEF report.
- EuroGOOS needs to be a legal entity so as to be the oceanographic partner on the European level. EuroGOOS could coordinate programmes with a subset of members as is done in EUMETNET.
- The main task for EuroGOOS is European harmonisation focusing on the activities that are important.

New EuroGOOS Agreement for an Economic Interest Group (EIG)

The meeting agreed that EuroGOOS needed a legal personality, but that no other changes should be made to EuroGOOS as an organisation and that the budget should not be increased.

Several members were not ready to sign the proposed EIG agreement, especially those that needed to obtain support at ministerial level. A number of members also objected to “joint and several liabilities”.

David Fenton (CNR lawyer) presented other options available and in particular explained the details of an international non-profit association under Belgian law. This type of association has limited liability, a legal personality, and uncomplicated withdrawal procedures. A Belgian decree is needed to set it up. Commercial activities may be carried out if ancillary to the association’s main purpose.

EuroGOOS would be able to continue working in the same way as now if it became a Belgian international non-profit association.

Nearly all present were in favour of a non-profit organisation and the meeting therefore agreed on this future legal form for EuroGOOS. The members not in favour of the suggested solution of an international non-profit organisation argued that such an organisation will be weaker and less recognised compared to an EIG.

Action: Office to contact Belgian lawyer to ask for a new draft agreement to be circulated to members by the end of January. This needs to be accompanied by clear one-page background document and a budget plan. Members will have the opportunity to comment until the end of March but are asked to keep comments as simple and as considerate as possible.

Action: Board to update the purposes of EuroGOOS and be responsible for answering questions and trying to get as good an agreement as possible

It was agreed that an extra-ordinary Members’ meeting was necessary to be held on 5 June at the new EuroGOOS Offices in Brussels. This meeting has to decide on the envisaged agreement so that the signature process can be started. At the meeting it also has to be decided how to proceed during the transition period.

Action: Office to ask EUMETNET for advice on working out procedures for the transition period. Office to keep members informed regarding the members’ willingness to sign.

The meeting agreed on this suggested procedure and timetable.

Proposal to relocate the Office to Belgium (offer from Belspo, EG11.41)

The current Director has spent an average of one day a week in Brussels. A move to Brussels will cut down on travelling and provide more opportunities for promotion of operational oceanography at the EC. A generous offer has been received from Belgium in reaction to a request from the EuroGOOS Office. Belspo has offered to finance the office space; however they do not want to be responsible for EuroGOOS and therefore favour the establishment of EuroGOOS as its own legal entity.

The meeting gratefully accepted the offer and decided to move the office to Brussels. The Chair thanked Georges Pichot for all the work done in enabling this offer. The Director will prepare and negotiate a MoU with the future Belgian host institution.

The meeting decided that staff for the EuroGOOS Office in Brussels in future should be seconded from a member institution that will be reimbursed by EuroGOOS, following the example provided by EUMETNET.

Principles for the appointment of a new Director (EG11.47)

Hans Dahlin intends to leave the position of Director at the end of 2012. In order to prepare the appointment of a new Director the meeting decided that a selection committee should be established composed of those Board members who do not apply for the post. If possible a HR officer, preferably from the Belgian host institution, should be included in the selection committee. The present Director shall participate as a consultant without voting rights. The Board should send out the position description in January, after reviewing the position description from 2000 used for the current Director.

The meeting decided that the announcement of the position of EuroGOOS Director should only be made to the member institutes. Applicants need to belong to an institute that is prepared to accept secondment. Final approval should be made at the extra Members' Meeting in June.

6 Reports from ROOSs, questions and issues for discussion

- Arctic ROOS (EG11.33), presented by the chair Stein Sandven
- BOOS (EG11.34), presented by the new chair Urmas Lips
- IBI-ROOS (EG11.35), presented by the chair Sylvie Pouliquen
- MOON (EG11.36), presented by Pierre Bahurel on behalf of Nadia Pinardi
- NOOS (EG11.37), presented by the new chair Henning Wehde

The meeting took note of all the ROOS activities and expressed gratitude to the ROOS chairs for all the work that they do.

There are about 60 institutes that are members of ROOSs but not members of EuroGOOS. The meeting expressed the wish and need that these institutes will enter into closer contacts with EuroGOOS. It did not favour the introduction of observership or associated membership for these institutes, but called for additional activities by the Office and the members to further promote EuroGOOS membership.

Some aspects of what has to be delivered under the MSFD are very relevant to ROOS work. Cross-cutting issues should be dealt with by EuroGOOS working groups.

The next Annual Meeting has to consider in particular the relation between EuroGOOS and the ROOSs, bearing in mind that EuroGOOS shall be the voice of operational oceanography in Europe.

7 Reports from Working Groups, reviewing membership and terms of reference

- Data-MEQ (EG11.31) presented by the chair Sylvie Pouliquen
- EPWG (EG11.30) presented by the new chair Dave Mills.
- SAWG presented by co-chair Johnny Johannessen who introduced a planning document for a meeting that was scheduled for 2011, but had to be cancelled.
- TPWG (EG11.32) presented by the chair Glenn Nolan

Not much progress is shown in the working groups. They need to highlight what is really needed as an end product and focus on solving the problems that EuroGOOS members face.

Action: Office and WG Chairs to discuss a joint workshop for SAWG, EPWG and TPWG.

8 Registration of Members' representatives (EG11.40)

The representatives present at the meeting signed the registration document. (The participant list is attached to the minutes).

9 Membership

After a presentation by Urmas Lips the meeting with great appreciation accepted the Marine Systems Institute in Estonia as a EuroGOOS member.

All member subscriptions have been received except for one which is on its way.

NWO from the Netherlands terminates its membership at the end of 2011.

10 Minutes of 17th Annual Meeting, Brussels, October 2010 (EG10.33)

The minutes were approved with no comments.

11 Matters arising, actions completed

All actions from 2010 have been completed.

12 Financial matters and Honorary Treasurer's report (EG11.28)

• Result for 2010 and status for 2011

All EuroGOOS financial matters are handled by SMHI and are audited. For 2010 the costs are lower than budgeted since contributions to the Director's pension fund are no longer paid and Patrick Gorrings was working in Australia.

The meeting approved the result for 2010.

Again in 2011 the costs are lower than budgeted but extra money will be needed in 2012/2013. The meeting agreed to maintain the current subscription level and to use the reserves in the coming years to cover the rise in costs and to facilitate the transfer to a new legal structure. If needed, financial support can be provided for specific activities of the Working Groups.

The meeting requested the elaboration of a 5 year budget plan which should also set a target level for the reserves (e.g. 20% of turnover).

• Budget for 2012

After thorough discussion the meeting adopted the budget for 2012, as annexed to the minutes.

Subscriptions

Due to a reorganisation of the Danish administration the Danish member DaMSA has been closed down. The tasks have been distributed to other institutes. The consequences for the subscriptions from Danish members have to be considered.

Action: Erik Buch will try to find out more about what will happen with DaMSA's EuroGOOS subscription.

The subscription level for members for 2013 will be the same as 2012.

13 Approval of Working Group proposals, Terms of Reference and future plans

• Continuation of ESEAS activities (EG11.46)

The suggested creation of a sea level working group is supported by Puertos and DMI. EuroGOOS has previously agreed with ESEAS to undertake secretariat help.

Several members expressed their concern about creating a new working group especially in the light of the heavy work load the Office as well as the members have to face already. The meeting decided not to establish a working group, but to mandate the Office to support the organisation of an expert meeting where the need for further organisational structures concerning sea level activities may be discussed.

Action: Office and Puertos del Estado to investigate what already exists and offer to organise and expert meeting to which all EuroGOOS members will be invited.

• Proposal for creation of a new working group COSMO-WG for Shelf seas (EG11.45)

Ideas presented at the FUTOORE conference at Hamburg have led to a request to create a working group. It will continue the work started during the ECOOP project and can work across the ROOSs. Many members were positive but recommended changing the name as there are already other COSMO working groups (Consortium for Small-scale Modeling).

Members agreed to the creation of this working group but suggested a review of the terms of reference including a time frame for the group.

14 Elections (EG11.22)

Glenn Nolan leaves the Board as he has served 2 full terms. The Chair thanked Glenn for all his work in the Board.

Peter Ehlers was re-elected as chair for 2 more years. At the next Annual meeting a new Chair elect has to be nominated.

Erik Buch was re-elected to the Board for 3 more years.

15 Next EuroGOOS Conference

The next EuroGOOS Conference will be in 2014. An invitation from somewhere on the Iberian Peninsula would be very welcome.

16 Any Other Business

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17 Date and venue of next Annual Meeting

Kai Soetje invited EuroGOOS to Hamburg during the 3rd week of November. The meeting would be hosted jointly by BSH and HZG. The dates will be finalised by the Board.

Participant list

Country	Institute	Participants
Belgium	Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services	Guido Dumon
Belgium	Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services	Caroline Lootens
Belgium	Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models	Georges Pichot
Cyprus	Cyprus Oceanography Center	George Zodiatis
Denmark	Danish Meteorological Institute	Erik Buch
Denmark	Danish Maritime Safety Administration	-
Finland	Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)	Jari Haapala
France	IFREMER	Sylvie Pouliquen
France	IFREMER	Pierre-Yves Le Traon
France	MERCATOR OCEAN	Pierre Bahurel
France	METEO-FRANCE	-
Germany	BSH	Kai Soetje
Germany	BSH	Monika Breuch-Moritz
Germany	Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Centre for Materials & Coastal Research	Emil Stanev
Greece	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	Kostas Nittis
Ireland	Marine Institute	Glenn Nolan
Italy	CNR	Rosalia Santoleri
Italy	CNR	David Fanton
Italy	ENEA	Giuseppe Manzella
Italy	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia	Nadia Pinardi
Italy	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia	Giovanni Coppini
Italy	National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics	Alessandro Crise
Netherlands	Deltares	Nicki Villars
Netherlands	KNMI	-
Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research	-
Netherlands	Rijkswaterstaat Waterdienst	Harm Oterdoom
Norway	Institute of Marine Research	Einar Svendsen
Norway	Institute of Marine Research	Henning Wehde
Norway	Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center	Johnny Johannessen
Norway	Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center	Stein Sandven
Norway	Norwegian Meteorological Institute	Bruce Hackett
Poland	Institute of Meteorology and Water Management	-
Poland	Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences	Jan Piechura
Poland	Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences	Marcin Wichorowski
Poland	Maritime Institute in Gdansk	Kazimierz Szeffler
Portugal	Instituto Hidrografico	Carlos Ventura Soares
Spain	Spanish Oceanographic Institute	Alicia Lavín Montero
Spain	Puertos del Estado	-
Sweden	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	Bodil Aarhus Andrae
Sweden	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	Iréne Lake
UK	The Met Office	Mike Bell
UK	Natural Environment Research Council	Trevor Guymer
UK	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Dave Mills
Estonia	Marine Systems Institute	Urmas Lips
	EuroGOOS Office	Hans Dahlin
	EuroGOOS Office	Peter Ehlers
	EuroGOOS Office	Patrick Gorringer
	EuroGOOS Office	Siân Petersson