



Minutes

Meeting	EuroGOOS AISBL Annual Meeting
Date/time	20-21 November 2013
Venue	EuroGOOS AISBL/belspo, Av. Louise 231, 1050 Brussels BELGIUM

* All referenced documents are available on www.eurogoos.eu under “Documents/Documents for Annual meeting 2013 (Brussels)”

** The list of participants can be found in the Annex 1.

*** Full list of Actions in Annex 2.

DAY 1: Open day

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1. Welcome

The Chair P. Ehlers welcomed the members to the first Annual Meeting of EuroGOOS AISBL, at its new Secretariat Office in Brussels, at the premises of the Belgian Science Policy Office (belspo). Since the Annual Meeting of 2012, it has been a period of change for EuroGOOS as the Office moved from Norrköping to Brussels and there have been 2 new additions to the Office: that of K. Nittis as the Secretary General and Y. Antoniou as the new Office Manager.

The Chair briefly explained the course of the 2 days and the Office Manager gave some logistics information.

2. Annual Reports

2.1. Chair’s Report (EG13.59)

The Chair summarised the development of EuroGOOS during the 5 years of his chairmanship in his report. The past year has seen the Office move to Brussels which required a lot of work; at the same time the Office was very active in following developments and progress with EEA, ECOMF, Copernicus, and EU initiatives. The Office should be ready to take over more responsibility at EU level in the future, while focusing more on its relationship with ROOSs and approaching the private sector.

As this is Peter Ehlers’ last Chairmanship, he wished EuroGOOS “Good Luck”, he thanked Hans Dahlin, previous EuroGOOS Director and Sian de Koster, previous Office Manager for their work during his years of Chairmanship.

2.2. Secretariat's Report (EG13.47)

The past year has been a year of transition. A major activity has been the establishment of the AISBL Office in Brussels which is now fully functional. Another important task has been the re-design of the EuroGOOS corporate identity: a new logo has been approved by members via e-mail voting whereas the new web site is underway. With regard to the interactions with EU initiatives and Institutes, the Office is following closely the developments with EEA, ECOMF, Copernicus, GOOS/GRA and JPI-Oceans, and is expected to play an important role in the future. As regards EuroGOOS Working Groups, it was noted that some WGs are more active than others and a revision of their mission is proposed which aims at improving their functionality (EG13.58). As for participation to external projects, this is of key importance to EuroGOOS and a set of principles is proposed for the involvement of the Office in external projects (EG13.20).

P. Farcy (IFREMER) asked about the plans of EuroGOOS to participate in the Horizon2020 calls, as well as for more information on EOOS (European Ocean Observing System) and the potential role of EuroGOOS. The Secretary General responded that both are of great interest to EuroGOOS; the plan is to participate in next year's calls possibly through a member or a wider consortium – it is noted that the call shall cover the Atlantic region only.

As for EOOS, EuroGOOS is expected to play a leading role in such an initiative. A first step has involved initial discussions with JPI Oceans, a high-level European initiative, follow-up of EraNETs, which is now drafting the strategic research agenda on marine infrastructures and showed great interest in establishing EOOS. The Secretary General acknowledged the importance and interest in this but a decision has not been made among members about how they should become engaged. He proposed to keep a close contact with JPI Oceans; then, as JPI Oceans is interested in building on the existing infrastructures, the community should organise itself towards presenting a consolidated approach for the creation of EOOS. The discussion continued around the EuroGOOS position and role. J. Johannessen (NERSC) and A. Crise (OGS) suggested that EOOS should be included in next year's Conference agenda.

Action 1. Secretary General to include EOOS in the topics of 2014 EuroGOOS Conference.

The principles for participation in external projects were then briefly discussed. M. Bell (UKMO) proposed a change, to better reflect the potential contribution of EuroGOOS, which was accepted.

Action 2. Secretary General to amend document EG13.20 as per Mike Bell's proposal.

P. Bahurel (Mercator Ocean) asked for more information about the relationship with the EC. Following recent meetings of the Secretary General with the Copernicus Unit, there is now a better understanding of the role and activities of EuroGOOS and ROOSs. However, as there are frequent staff and leadership changes, it is proposed **to keep a good level of communication with the relevant EC Units.**

3. Reports from ROOSs

The Chair asked **ROOS Chairs to make an effort to submit their reports well in advance of the Annual Meeting**, to give the opportunity to members to study them.

ROOS Chairs gave short presentations of their activities of last year.

3.1. Arctic ROOS (Chair: S. Sandven – presentation by J. Johannessen): EG_IN13.73

3.2. BOOS (Chair: U. Lips): EG_IN13.55

3.3. NOOS (Chair: H. Wehde): EG_IN13.74

3.4. IBI-ROOS (Co-Chair: G. Nolan): EG_IN13.75

3.5. MONGOOS (Co-Chair: G. Coppini): EG_IN13.76

There was a general remark that ROOSs should make an effort to increase links with external projects and initiatives. Sustainability and lack of funds to support services after a project expires are two main problems faced by some ROOSs; cooperation with the private sector sometimes helps resolve these problems.

There was a proposal from P.Y. Le Traon (IFREMER) for a **harmonized way to report ROOS activities to EuroGOOS** that will enable visibility and better dissemination to external bodies such as GRA. Emphasis should be given to standardize the way of reporting the observing systems infrastructure in each region. JCOMM was mentioned as an example and members agreed to work more towards developing a more structured way to disseminate the results of their activities.

4. Reports from Working Groups

4.1. DATA-MEQ (Chair: Sylvie Pouliquen): EG_IN13.52

4.2. Science Advisory Working Group (SAWG) (co-Chair: J. Johannessen): EG_IN13.66

The SAWG co-Chairs have announced that they wish to step down from the Chairmanship of the group. However, as the White Paper on EuroGOOS future strategy is underway, they have both committed to fulfil the task and support the future Chair(s) in this.

Action 3. Office to ask EuroGOOS members for candidates for co-chairs and members of the SAWG.

4.3. Technology Planning Working Group (TPWG) (Chair: G. Nolan): EG_IN13.63

G. Nolan (IMI) asked to the Office to assist in defining the membership of the group and find a co-chair. So far there is not much commitment and ROOS Chairs should encourage their members to contribute in the tasks proposed by the WG, namely in creating and maintaining an inventory of European Oceanographic observing Systems and in producing a report entitled “Technologies Underpinning Operational Oceanography” based on JERICO deliverables.

Action 4. Office to ask EuroGOOS members to nominate candidates for a co-chair and members for the TPWG.

4.4. EuroGOOS Product Working Group (EPWG) (Chair D. Mills): EG_IN13.65

Action 5. Office to ask EuroGOOS members to nominate candidate members for the EPWG.

4.5. Coastal Modelling WG: EG_IN13.64 (no oral presentation)

4.6. ECOMF Strategic Partnership Working Group (ESPWG) (Chair: G. Zodiatis): EG_IN13.77

The Chair of the ECOMF Strategic Partnership WG presented the progress of the group, the Action Plan which is currently underway and a proposal for future action – some issues are still to be addressed especially as the relevant EC regulation is not yet published. A key issue is the participation/role of members who are not partners in ECOMF (which in turn hinders participation to the WG); another issue is the EU/Regional uptake of the Copernicus Marine Service proposed by ECOMF which is not yet entirely visible. The members agreed to work further on developing an Action Plan with clear targets, needs and roles for members. A proposal from M. Bell was to **request to ECOMF to react on the ESP WG Chair’s proposal.**

5. Progress of key EU projects & initiatives

5.1. MyOcean (P. Bahurel): EG_IN13.83

5.2. GMES-PURE (Y. Antoniou): EG13.48

5.3. EMODnet PHYSICS (P. Gorringer): EG13.49

5.4. EuroArgo (P-Y. Le Traon): EG_IN13.84

5.5. GROOM (P. Testor): EG_IN13.85

5.6. Jerico (G. Nolan): EG_IN13.86

DAY 2: Formal meeting

6. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

7. Membership Issues

7.1. Update on AISBL membership (EG13.50)

The Secretary General briefly updated the members on the progress made with collecting the signed declarations from members of the AISBL. At the time of the meeting, 26 out of 36 members had signed the founding declaration (the declarations from CMCC, IMWM and IH were received during the meeting). Meteo-France has decided not to join the Association, as they consider they are represented sufficiently by Mercator Ocean. The French members of EuroGOOS are in close contacts with SHOM (Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service), to **explore the possibilities for SHOM to become EuroGOOS member.**

7.2. New member applications (EG_IN13.45)

NIB, the National Institute of Biology of Slovenia has asked to join the Association. As a representative from NIB was unable to be present to explain their work, the Secretary General spoke a few words about the institute and that this would be an excellent addition to the Association, as they are very active in Operational Oceanography in the Adriatic.

The Annual Meeting admitted NIB as new EuroGOOS AISBL member.

8. Review of Actions from 2012 General Meeting

There were no comments and this agenda item was reported as closed.

9. Approval of new activities and subsidiary bodies

Proposal for joint EMB-EuroGOOS WG (EG13.53)

The Secretary General presented this item, which has been proposed earlier in the year, during the board meetings of the respective bodies. The Annual Meeting was invited to discuss and approve the creation of 2 new joint working groups between EuroGOOS and the European Marine Board. There were concerns expressed regarding duplication of effort especially as members are over committed; also about the scope/purpose of these WGs, their duration and expert participation. The Secretary General proposed **to also consider the possibility of one WG only, themes and scope to be agreed during the next Annual meeting, and the members agreed to that.** The Secretary General and the Executive Directors Board are invited to investigate further the proposal for creating one joint WG between EuroGOOS and EMB.

10. Approval of EuroGOOS AISBL Rules

The Annual Meeting approved the Rules (EG12.17). It is noted that the Rules may be amended by members in the future, to match future needs and be up-to-date.

11. EuroGOOS conference 2014

The Secretary General briefly presented the preparative actions for next year's Conference. The first announcement will be circulated before Christmas 2013 and a second announcement including important dates is planned for January 2014.

The vice-Chair E. Buch presented the proposed themes and topics of the Conference, as they had been drafted and circulated to the members before the Annual meeting by the Chair, the Secretary General and himself.

On the communication aspect, G. Coppini (CMCC) proposed to engage a journalist for roundtable discussions; also to enable live streaming of the Conference, to allow virtual participation. The Chair suggested to discuss about the organisational details in due time.

J. Haapala (FMI) enquired about potential sponsors. The Secretary General responded that in the past the EC has covered the printing of the proceedings but this is not foreseen anymore. **The local Conference organizer is invited to explore the possibility of external sponsoring further.**

M. Bell proposed to **reconsider the plan of scheduled organisational tasks** especially the targeted dates as some tasks are currently planned around next summer which might create delays. The Secretary General welcomed this proposal.

G. Rak (ISPRA) asked for **more visibility of environmental aspects in the Conference themes** in order to attract the relevant scientific attention and the Secretary General welcomed this proposal.

Action 6. Office to work with Conference Scientific Committee on the content of the first announcement.

Action 7. Conference Scientific Committee to propose speakers.

12. Financial matters

The Secretary General presented the results for 2012, the status for 2013 (current and projection) and the budget for 2014 (EG13.55). He also presented the membership fees for 2014 and 2015.

Members asked for more clarity in the presentation of the travel and other costs under projects (PURE & EMODNET) in the financial report for 2013 and budget for 2014; they should be also shown as EuroGOOS expenditure in the budget together with the salaries costs.

Action 8. Secretary General to include travel costs and other costs of projects in the EuroGOOS budget for 2013.

Some members also commented on the membership fees and requested for a new method for their calculation, as some countries have to pay increased fees.

Action 9. Executive Board of Directors to discuss and propose a new method for calculating membership fees at the next Annual Meeting.

Action 10. Secretary General to remove the column "2015" from EuroGOOS Member Fees.

The Annual Meeting approved the EuroGOOS AISBL budget for 2014.

Proposed corrections to presentation of finances will be made by the Secretary General.

13. Personnel issues

According to the Rules, the power to appoint Secretariat staff is passed from the General Meeting to the Secretary General. With the Rules having been approved by this Annual Meeting, the Secretary General shall conclude a contract with the Office Manager of 2 or 3 year-duration.

With regard to the secondment of P. Gorringe, there have been ongoing negotiations with SMHI since June 2013. SMHI has requested a services agreement instead of a secondment agreement, which would result in an increase of 60% of the current salary cost. The compromise solution that has been achieved is to conclude a short term agreement under the present terms until the end of June 2014. After that, a job offer will be made based on the terms that EuroGOOS AISBL can afford. Some members underlined the fact that part of P. Gorringe's salary comes from projects and not the core EuroGOOS budget and that this should be taken into consideration in the negotiations.

14. Elections

In accordance with the EuroGOOS AISBL Articles of Association, **the Annual Meeting appointed E. Buch as the new Chairperson of EuroGOOS AISBL.** The proposal had been made at the Annual Meeting of 2012. E. Buch is elected for 3 years and is eligible for re-election only once for another 2 years.

The Annual Meeting also appointed A. Crise as Vice-Chairperson, following a proposal from E. Buch. His mandate takes an end at the Annual Meeting of 2015 and he cannot stand for re-election.

The Annual Meeting also appointed two new Executive Directors, as M. Bell has requested not to stand for re-election and P. Ehlers mandate took an end. Two nominations were received: from BSH (Germany) and TUT-MSI (Estonia). **The Annual Meeting accepted these proposals and appointed Dr. Bernd Brügge (BSH) and Prof. Urmas Lips (MSI/BOOS Chair) to the positions of Executive Directors.** Their mandates shall take an end at the Annual Meeting of 2016 and they can stand for re-election.

P-Y. Le Traon and J. Johannessen were re-elected for another 3 years on the Executive Directors Board. They cannot stand for re-election.

15. Next Annual meeting

The next Annual Meeting will be held in Brussels, at belspo, between 21 and 23 May 2014.

16. Any Other Business

None.

The Chair P. Ehlers thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1: Alphabetical List of Participants (name, member organisation)

A. EuroGOOS AISBL member representatives

Pierre Bahurel, Mercator Ocean

Mike Bell, UKMO

Agnieszka Beszczyńska-Moeller, IOPAN

Giovanni Coppini, CMCC

Guido Dumon, MDK

Jari Haapala, FMI

Bruce Hackett, MET Norway

Stephen Hall, NOC/NERC

Johnny Johannessen, NERSC

Włodzimierz Krzyminski, IMWM

Alicia Lavin Montero, IEO

Pierre-Yves Le Traon, IFREMER

Sébastien Legrand, RBINS

Urmaz Lips, TUT/MSI

David Mills, CEFAS

Glenn Nolan, IMI

Sylvie Pouliquen, IFREMER

Giulietta Rak, ISPRA

Rosalia Santoleri, CNR

Antonio Santos Martinho, IH

Jun She, DMI

Kai Christien Soetje, BSH

Emil Stanev, HZG

Henning Wehde, IMR

George Zodiatis, OC-UCY

B. Invited members of EuroGOOS informal association and guests

Bernd Brügge, BSH

Alessandro Crise, OGS

Michela De Dominicis, INGV

Patrick Farcy, IFREMER (Open Day only)

Thomas Hammarklint, SMHI (Open Day only)

Niels Holt, FCOO

Irène Lake, SMHI

Julien Mader, AZTI TECNALIA (Open Day only)
Emina Mamaca, IFREMER (Open Day only)
Laurent Mortier, ENSTA/UPMC (Open Day only)
Sara Morucci, ISPRA (adviser)
Simona Mura, OGS (Open Day only)
Harm Oterdoom, Rijkswaterstaat
Pierre-Marie Poulain, OGS (Open Day only)
Pierre Testor, CNRS (Open Day only)
Kees van Ruiten, Deltares

C. EuroGOOS AISBL Chairs and Secretariat

Peter Ehlers (Chair)
Erik Buch (Vice-Chair)
Kostas Nittis (Secretary General) – via webex
Patrick Gorringer
Yota Antoniou (Office Manager)

APOLOGIES

Enrique Alvarez Fanjul, Puertos del Estado
Henrik Steen Andersen, DMI
Maria Dalla Costa, ISPRA
Joël Hoffman, Meteo France
Giuseppe Manzella, ENEA
Paolo Oddo, INGV
Stein Sandven, NERSC
Kazimierz Szeffler, MIG
Jitze P. van der Meulen, KNMI
Nicki Villars, Deltares
Charlotte Wiin Havsteen, FCOO
Jacky Wood, NOC/NERC
Ole Krarup Leth, DMI
Vlado Malačič, NIB-MBS
Nadia Pinardi, SAWG co-chair

ANNEX 2: LIST OF ACTIONS

1. *Secretary General to include EOOS in the topics of 2014 EuroGOOS Conference.*
2. *Secretary General to amend document EG13.20 as per Mike Bell's proposal.*
3. *Office to ask EuroGOOS members for candidates for co-chairs and members of the SAWG.*
4. *Office to ask EuroGOOS members to nominate candidates for a co-chair and members for the TPWG.*
5. *Office to ask EuroGOOS members to nominate candidate members for the EPWG.*
6. *Office to work with Conference Scientific Committee on the content of the first announcement.*
7. *Conference Scientific Committee to propose speakers.*
8. *Secretary General to include travel costs and other costs of projects in the EuroGOOS budget for 2013.*
9. *Executive Board of Directors to discuss and propose a new method for calculating membership fees at the next Annual Meeting.*
10. *Secretary General to remove the column "2015" from EuroGOOS Member Fees.*

ANNEX 3: RESOLUTIONS

The Annual Meeting held in Brussels 20-21 November 2013:

1. *approves EuroGOOS AISBL Rules (document EG12.17).*
2. *approves the EuroGOOS AISBL budget for 2014.*
3. *appoints Mr. E. Buch as the new Chairperson of EuroGOOS AISBL.*
4. *appoints A. Crise as Vice-Chairperson of EuroGOOS AISBL.*
5. *appoints Dr. Bernd Brügge (BSH) and Prof. Urmaz Lips (MSI/BOOS Chair) to the positions of Executive Directors.*
6. *re-elects P-Y. Le Traon and J. Johannessen as Executive Directors for another 3 years.*

Signed by:



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Peter Ehlers
EuroGOOS AISBL Chairperson



Dr. Hans Erik Buch
EuroGOOS AISBL Vice-Chairperson