



Minutes of the PRIMET Annual General Meeting 2017

The PRIMET AGM for 2017 was held on 6-Sep-17 at 1400 at the Helix Centre, Dublin during the EMS 2017 Conference.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees:

Dennis Schulze – Meteogroup (Chair) (DS)

Michal Najman – Meteopress (MN)

Gergely Nagy – Idokép (GN)

Balint Szente-Varga – Idokép (BS)

Coen Stuart – MeteoGroup (CS)

Harry Otten (HO)

Christian Dumard – Great Circle (CD)

Andrew Eccleston – PRIMET New General Secretary (AE)

Apologies:

Han Wensink

Action: AE was requested to send best wishes from the AGM to Han.

DS welcomed CD representing Great Circle, a new member for PRIMET.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The Minutes of the 2016 were received and approved without amendment.

The actions were discussed:

- AE was requested to send best wishes from the AGM to Han.

Completed.

- AE to write to WMO General Secretary to develop this dialogue further.

Wrote letter of introduction etc. and sent emails. Richard Pettifer continues to receive post from them, inviting attendance at meetings etc. He forwards it and an email is sent to ask them to re-direct. No change yet.

There was discussion on the relevance of the WMO for PRIMET and whether we should be spending time on them. AE pointed out that the WMO should at least be aware of our existence and know where to send the letters - so that if the opportunity for a useful interaction arose, we would at least be able to communicate.

- AE will liaise with Steve Stringer at UKMO and facilitate a test of EAMDAR data for GN and BS and include MN.

Completed. Idokep are now receiving data and assessing it.



- AE to be responsible for drafting a new PRIMET Strategy document for the 2017 AGM.

This has been deferred until more feedback from membership has become available.

- AE to create a new database of the private sector of meteorological services in Europe and work on increasing membership of PRIMET.

Started but not completed. Action has been taken to verify/correct existing membership.

The two incomplete actions prompted a broader discussion about the strategy PRIMET should adopt to attract more members. Some evidence suggests that we may be seen as a form of insurance to be invoked when a problem occurs in the relationship between a private sector business and a public sector organisation.

DS pointed out that the purpose of PRIMET is threefold: to create a positive message about private sector, to ensure access to public data and ensure fair competition in the marketplace.

AE pointed out that the promoting PRIMET as an insurance policy against a threat is not the way we sell ourselves and we can't be sure that this would be enough to attract new members. It was agreed that testimonials from existing members would be a useful asset in selling the idea of PRIMET membership.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

4. Presentation of Annual Report from the Board

DS reported that there had been a smooth transition from Richard Pettifer to AE in the role of General Secretary and he appreciated fresh ideas being brought to the table, as well as representing PRIMET at EMS 2017.

The meetings with ECOMET in Brussels and Vienna had a good atmosphere, but they sometimes lack pace in making progress. An example of this was EAMDAR where they asked for our co-operation and then proceeded very slowly. The need to be reminded about market requirements.

Two countries (Germany and Poland) have recently adopted an open data policy, partly due to private sector pressure. HO queried if more could be done and CS pointed out that more 'free' data should have an impact on ECOMET prices.

Talks on collaboration with national weather services, regarding warnings, research, quality assurance etc. have failed. The ECOMET General Assembly did not want to continue with this opportunity.

There have been contacts with ECMWF, including a workshop on the socio-economic benefits of NWP and the ECMWF Users meeting. DS participated in a group from different sectors and all want boundary condition runs and hourly data. PRIMET should make another initiative.



5. Report from General Secretary

AE presented his first report as General Secretary, which had been circulated in advance.

Contact had been made with the relevant public organisations, although the WMO had still not recognised the change of General Secretary. Visits had taken place to both WeatherNet and MeteoGroup in the UK.

Having reviewed the content and management of the existing PRIMET website, a new website was launched in December 2016 which was under direct PRIMET control. A refund of the balance of the maintenance contract was obtained. The new website has a clearer message about the purpose of PRIMET, but has thus far failed to generate more dialogue with members.

The essential PRIMET administrative tasks had been accomplished, although Lloyds bank is still sending invoices to Richard Pettifer despite numerous attempts to get this changed.

The membership database had been revised and based on 2017 subscriptions it stands at 15 companies. A new member, Great Circle, has recently joined.

Increasing membership is a priority, but before an effective campaign can be launched a clearer understanding of the motivation for a private sector company joining PRIMET is required. Attendance at EMS 2017, with the opportunity for dialogue with a wide range of people/organisations is proving to be a useful catalyst in planning the way ahead for PRIMET.

6. Financial Report

Following a deficit of €6,454 in 2016, there is the prospect of a small surplus in 2017.

Savings have been made in the maintenance of the website and withdrawal from the PSI Alliance.

The General Secretary has worked considerably more days than required by the contract without additional cost to PRIMET, but this was regarded as necessary to account for the learning curve and unforeseen projects such as the new website and participation at EMS 2017.

7. Agreement of fees for 2018

It was agreed that the membership fees for 2018 would remain at €70 per FTE.

8. Election of Board for 2018

In the absence of any proposals and with the incumbents willing to continue in office, the current Board of Directors were re-elected.