



## EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

Central Office: Boğaziçi University, Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Çengelköy, Istanbul, 34684 Turkey

Telephone: 90-216 332 5530

Fax: 90-216 462 1932

E-mail: ansal@boun.edu.tr

Home Page: <http://www.eage.org>

President: Martin Koller (Switzerland) e-mail: martin.koller@resonance.ch

Vice-Presidents: Robin Spence (UK) e-mail: robin@carltd.com

Mihail Garevski (Republic of Macedonia) e-mail: garevski@pluto.iziiis.ukim.edu.mk

Secretary-General: Atilla Ansal (Turkey)

Treasurer: Rainer Flesch (Austria) e-mail: Rainer.Flesch@arsenal.ac.at

Executive Committee: Mauro Dolce (Italy), Jakob Eisenberg (Russia), Peter Fajfar (Slovenia), Andreas J Kappos (Greece), Carlos S. Oliveira (Portugal)

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: 4**

**Date: June 21, 2009**

**Place: Istanbul, Turkey**

### **Attendance:**

*Martin Koller, President*

*Robin Spence, Vice President*

*Mihail Garevski, Vice President*

*Atilla Ansal, Secretary General*

*Carlos S Oliveira*

*Dario Slejko, ESC Representative*

### **Absentee:**

*Mauro Dolce*

*Jacob Eisenberg*

*Peter Fajfar*

*Rainer Flesch*

*Andreas J Kappos*

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### **Prologue:**

The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering for 2006-2010 Period was held in Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday, June 21, 2009 between 10:00 and 17:00 hours prior to the *First International Conference on Earthquakes & Tsunamis*. The EAGE Executive Committee meeting was chaired by the President.

### **Agenda:**

1. *Approval of the Agenda*
  2. *Introduction by the President*
  3. *Vice President M. Garevski: Developments concerning ECEE 2010*
  4. *EAGE Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Lectureship*
  5. *Central Office Activities for 2008-2009 term*
  6. *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering*
  7. *Budget*
  8. *EAGE Statutes*
  9. *Miscellaneous*
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**Item 1:** The proposed Agenda was approved and the minutes of the Third Executive Committee Meeting were signed by all the Executive Committee Members present.

**Item 2:** The President welcomed the members to the Fourth Executive Committee Meeting. He summarised his suggestions concerning the organisation of the joint sessions between EAEE and ESC related to engineering seismology in the forthcoming 2010 conference. He emphasised that the decisions reached during the EAEE-ESC Joint Executive Committee Meeting held in Crete in 2008 need to be implemented.

**Item 3:** The Vice President, Mihail Garevski presented a summary report concerning 2010 conference arrangements. He mentioned that the second announcement and conference web site had been designed containing the same information with similar format.

The Vice President explained the reasons for changing the conference venue from Skopje to Ohrid. The main reason was that Ohrid is much nicer and cheaper city with better hotels. He said that approximately 700 participants are expected to attend the conference and the transportation from Skopje Airport to Ohrid (200 km) will be arranged by the Local Organizing Committee for all participants at no additional cost. The Local Organizing Committee will take the responsibility of transferring conference participants by shuttle buses not only from and to the airport but also between the conference venue and the hotels and for the Gala Dinner between the hotels and the dinner venue. The Vice President also informed the Executive Committee about the Conference Venue. Conference Venue has nine rooms; among these, two can accommodate up to 300-400 participants and the others are for 80-100 participants.

Abstract and paper submission dates for the conference were discussed and it was decided to keep them as specified in the First Announcement taking into consideration the suggestions of Robin Spence who stressed the importance of early notification for people to find funding based on the acceptance of their abstracts.

The conference main topics and subtopics suggested by the Local Organising Committee were reviewed and discussed. Six main topics were determined as; Engineering Seismology, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Seismic Performance of Buildings, Earthquake Resistant Engineering Structures, New Techniques and Technologies, and Managing Risk in Seismic Regions. Topics T1 and T6 will be organized and chaired as joint sessions between EAEE and ESC. The Vice President also mentioned that the topics of the conference sessions would be specified in accordance with the main and subtopics topics specified in the Second Announcement.

The Keynote Speakers proposed by the Local Organizing Committee were approved. It was recommended that the Theme Lecturers should also be determined in the near future. Dario Slejko indicated the importance of the poster sessions and suggested that additional efforts will be needed for increasing the attendance to poster sessions.

The Conference Committees were reviewed. It was suggested not to assign the same people to different Committees and to name EAEE Executive Committee as the International Organizing Committee. It was also proposed to select the Scientific Committee members from National Delegates.

The common block of EAEE-ESC joint sessions on engineering seismology during the 14th ECCE was discussed in detail. ESC Representative, Dario Slejko gave brief information concerning the ESC General Assembly to be organized just after ECEE on September 6-10 in Montpellier, France. He presented the draft copy of the first announcement. He also informed the Executive Committee, that as ESC, they had agreed on some issues concerning EAEE-ESC joint sessions. He pointed out that since two conferences are very close to each other a reduced price should be determined for seismologists who will be attending only last 2-3 days of ECEE. The President, Martin Koller emphasised the importance of cooperation with seismologists for the organisation of the joint sessions.

It was decided to have convenors from both associations to coordinate these sessions. Martin Koller also reminded that in ECEE paper submission is necessary to be a speaker, which is not the case for the ESC General Assembly, so the seismologists should be aware that papers are expected also for these joint sessions. Secretary General suggested appointing two chairpersons, one from EAEE and one from ESC for the joint sessions. ESC Representative, Dario Slejko proposed to have the session titles same as topic titles and he proposed to have sessions on the topics of joint EAEE-ESC working groups.

The decisions reached during the Executive Committee Meeting for the joint engineering seismology sessions in 14<sup>th</sup> ECEE can be summarised as:

- The common block of joint engineering seismology sessions should be scheduled during the last three days of the Conference.
- Topics T1, *Engineering Seismology* and T6, *Managing Risk in Seismic Regions* will be organized and chaired as EAEE and ESC joint sessions.
- The sub-topics of the joint sessions for Topic T1 "*Engineering Seismology*" will be; Earthquake hazard assessment, Strong motion, Site effects and microzonation, and Design ground motion  
and for Topic T6 "*Managing Risk in Seismic Regions*" will be; Implications of recent earthquakes, Disaster risk assessment and management, Social economic and planning aspects, Insurance policy related to earthquakes, Earthquake scenarios, Early warning and tsunami.
- The sessions related to these two main topics will be coordinated by two representatives from EAEE and ESC. EAEE appointed Martin Koller for T1 "*Engineering Seismology*" and Zoran Milutinovic for T6 "*Managing Risk in Seismic Regions*". Dario Slejko was appointed as ESC representative for T1 "*Engineering Seismology*". ESC will be asked to propose one seismologist for T6 "*Managing Risk in Seismic Regions*".
- There will be theme lectures during joint sessions and the speakers will be proposed by the EAEE and ESC representatives. For the topics of the theme lectures emphasis will be given to the titles of EAEE-ESC joint Working Groups.
- As decided in the EAEE-ESC Joint Executive Committee Meeting held in Crete, the oral sessions for Topic T1 "*Engineering Seismology*" will be hosted by the ECEE, and the same topic will only be poster session during the ESC General Assembly in Montpellier.
- 40% discount will be applied for ESC participants that will register to the last 3 days of the conference. The same is expected at the ESC General Assembly for the EAEE participants who will attend only to the first 3 days.
- An exhibition booth will be allocated free of charge to EAEE during the ESC General Assembly in Montpellier.

The Vice President, Mihail Garevski completed his report by giving some information on the registration fees, accommodation, and social programme of the Conference.

The Vice President was informed to plan for the EAEE Association Council Dinner during the second evening, the EAEE General Assembly during the fourth evening, and consequently the Conference Dinner on the third evening of the conference in accordance with the guidelines for ECEE when finalising the conference program.

**Item 4:** It was 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. The Awards Committee had been

appointed composed of five members (A.Ansal - Chairman, A.Kappos, M.Koller, R.Flesch, D.Slejko) for the selection of the Ambraseys Lecture Award. The call for nominations had been announced via EAEE Newsletter and EAEE web pages.

On behalf of Awards Committee, Atilla Ansal gave details to the Executive Committee about submitted nominations and corresponding votes for 2010 Lecturer. Prof. Theodossios Tassios was recommended for the first Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award by the Awards Committee. The Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the Awards Committee and decided to inform Prof.Tassios by an official letter signed by the President and Secretary General to invite him to deliver the First Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture during the forthcoming 14th ECEE.

As the Awards Committee members, Atilla Ansal and Andreas Kappos (based on telephone conversations) proposed to revise the "Guidelines for Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award" such that the Award Committee can also nominate candidates. This suggestion was approved by the Executive Committee. "Guidelines for Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Distinguished Lecture Award" was revised such that "*Written citations (~ 1-2 pages) will be requested giving the reasons of nominations. Upon receipt of nominations, nominators shall receive a letter of appreciation from the Awards Committee.*" sentences were deleted and "*Awards Committee may also nominate candidates for the Lecture Award*" sentence was added. It was also agreed to ask a professional graphical designer to design Commemorative EAEE Plaque that will be given to the Award winner.

**Item 5:** The Report of the Central Office Activities for the term September 2008 - June 2009 was presented by the Secretary General. He summarised the activities related to the EAEE Executive Committee, EAEE Newsletter, EAEE Web page, EAEE Memberships, Audit and yearly report to Turkish Department of Associations, EAEE participation to the FP7 Project SERIES, joint activities with ESC and the Task Group activities.

Central Office would like to include more articles in the Newsletter like the report about the L'Aquila Earthquake of 6 April prepared by Mónica Amaral Ferreira that was published in Newsletter Vol. 27, No. 1. This was the first article of technical nature published in EAEE Newsletter. Similar contributions will be welcomed on popular topics like recent earthquakes, issues and book reviews related to earthquake engineering in the future issue.

Secretary General proposed to redesign of the EAEE web pages professionally with a database and a search engine for BEE related pages and manuscripts. The Executive Committee approved this proposal and asked the Secretary General to inform the Executive Committee after a preliminary budget and a design proposal is received.

The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee concerning the participation of the EAEE Central Office in FP7 Project "Seismic Engineering Research Infrastructures for European Synergies, SERIES". The Secretary General will be the Leader for Work Package WP4/NA3 on "European Integration - European and international co-operation of research infrastructures". His main activities will be coordination of NA3 towards its general objectives:

- outreach to, and integration of, the European S&T community in earthquake engineering,
- co-operation of research infrastructures at the European and international level.

The SERIES budget will be used to support Gokce Tonuk for her activities related to EAEE.

The membership situation and numbers of paid and unpaid members for 2009 were summarised. The Central Office received from Italian and French National Societies proposals for supporting all their members to be EAEE individual members.

Secretary General expressed that the membership fees should be reconsidered for this new situation and he informed the Executive Committee that Springer has no objection for these new proposals from Italy and France concerning the registration of all their members as individual members of EAEE. The Executive Committee discussed and agreed to accept the proposals from Italian and French National Societies based on the following conditions:

- If all members of the national societies become individual members, special membership fee will be 15.00€ per person and National Associations will not be required to pay any additional national membership fees,
- These members will only have electronic subscription to BEE and will have their own username and password. They will be subscribing Individual Members of EAEE with no voting rights in the EAEE General Assembly.
- The membership form will be rearranged and a check box will be added to identify this reduced rate BEE subscription for the members of the national societies.
- In order to apply this reduced rate BEE subscription, at least half of the members of the national association with the minimum of 25 members from the national society agree to be EAEE subscribing Individual Members.

Secretary General informed the Executive Committee about the audit and yearly reports prepared and delivered to Turkish Department of Associations. Executive Committee approved the expenditure of 520€ for the Audit report on 20/3/2009.

Secretary General read the letter received from the Turkish National Committee on Earthquake Engineering informing EAEE that the General Assembly of Turkish National Committee unanimously decided to continue the activities of the Turkish National Committee under the legal umbrella of the Turkish Earthquake Foundation. This change will help to retain their non-governmental status with the same composition and same statues of the Turkish National Committee on Earthquake Engineering. Because of this development, the new name became Turkish Earthquake Foundation - Earthquake Engineering Committee. The names of the elected Executive Committee members and the appointed National Delegate for EAEE were also given.

Joint activities with ESC were discussed in detail and items decided concerning the cooperation of EAEE and ESC are as follows:

The 1st Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Lectureship will be given during the 14th ECEE and the 2nd has to be scheduled during the 33rd ESC General Assembly in 2012. The candidate towns for the 2012 and 2014 assemblies should be presented in Montpellier. Mariano Garcia will be asked to disseminate a call to the national delegates, giving emphasis that the 2014 ESC Assembly will be a joint EAEE-ESC conference.

The suggestion of an EAEE-ESC proposal to the next Marie Curie call was raised for joint training courses. It was suggested that the Secretary Generals of the EAEE and ESC should consider this issue and if possible prepare some preliminary suggestions to be evaluated by both EAEE and ESC Executive Committees.

Three joint working groups were determined to increase the technical cooperation between EAEE and ESC. In accordance with the ESC suggestions, the Joint Working Groups from ESC are:

- 4-07 Macroseismic field work practices (Leader I. Cecic),
- 1-08 Strong motion recordings (Leaders: J. Douglas and N.N. Ambraseys) and
- 3-08 Earthquake risk reduction in built cultural heritage in the Mediterranean basin (Leader: D. Benouar).

respectively corresponding EAEE Task Groups will be

- TG3 on "Structural Vulnerability and Earthquake Scenario" Coordinator: M. Dolce (although it is not a directly related correspondence),
- TG2 on "Strong Motion Records for Engineering Applications" Coordinator: Ragnar Sigbjörnsson, John Douglas, N.N. Ambraseys
- TG10 on "Seismic Aspects of Historical Monument Preservations" Coordinator: C. A. Symakezis,

Robin Spence expressed interest in the 4-07 activity. Ina Cecic will be asked to send information about the activity of WG 4-07 to Atilla Ansal and to Robin Spence, and of the Benouar WG to Atilla Ansal to be distributed to related EAEE Task Groups.

**Item 6:** The Secretary General briefly summarised the updated report on Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering. He mentioned the names of the new Special Issue proposals that were received during the past year that are in line for publication. The number of submitted manuscripts increased significantly indicating the increasing popularity of BEE. In the first half of 2009, BEE received 48 articles, whereas the number of manuscripts submitted was only 26 for the whole year in 2003. It had been decided to increase the number of issues per year from 4 to 6 starting from 2010.

At the present, Editorial Board is composed of 31 distinguished researchers and Springer wants to keep the number approximately at 30s. Most of the Editorial Board Members served for eight years as authors and as reviewers. The Secretary General as the Editor in Chief summarised the needs and plans for the renewal of the Editorial Board during 2010.

The Protocol between EAEE and Springer regarding BEE was reviewed by Executive Committee Members and was approved to be signed by the Secretary General.

**Item 7:** Secretary General presented the budget for the term of September 2008-June 2009.

|   | <b>INCOME</b>      | <b>EXPENDITURE</b> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>BALANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2008</b>                      | 1,948.79 €         |                    |
| <b>Membership fees from</b>                             |                    |                    |
| <i>National Members</i>                                 | 4,399.30 €         |                    |
| <i>Corporate Members</i>                                | 196.00 €           |                    |
| <i>Individual Members - Electronic Subs.</i>            | 2,105.16 €         |                    |
| <i>Individual Members - Paper Copy Subs.</i>            | 1,180.50 €         |                    |
| <i>Individual Members - Electronic+Paper Copy Subs.</i> | 367.50 €           |                    |
| <b>Secretary of the Central Office</b>                  |                    | 1,500.00 €         |
| <b>Office Expenses</b>                                  |                    |                    |
| <i>Auditing Cost</i>                                    |                    | 519.48 €           |
| <i>Newsletter printing</i>                              |                    | 527.00 €           |
| <i>Rate for bank account and Interest</i>               |                    | 126.59 €           |
| <b>SPRINGER</b>   |                    |                    |
| <i>Hard Copy(2008+2009)</i>                             |                    | 2,978.00 €         |
| <b>SUM</b>  | <b>10,197.25 €</b> | <b>5,651.07 €</b>  |
| <b>DIFFERENCE</b>                                       |                    | <b>4,546.18 €</b>  |
| <b>SPRINGER DEBT</b>                                    |                    | <b>1,075.00 €</b>  |
| <b>BALANCE FOR JUNE 2009</b>                            |                    | <b>3,471.18 €</b>  |

In the present situation the incomes and the expenditures were 10,197.25 € and 5,651.07 €, respectively with a balance of 4,546.18 € from which 1,075.00 € (750.00 € for electronic subscription) is EAEE's recent debt to Springer. The budget was approved by the Executive Committee.

**Item 8:** Modification of the EAEE Statutes by assigning different weights to Individual and National Members had been discussed on different occasions starting with the suggestion of Executive Committee Member Andreas Kappos. It was decided in the previous Executive Committee Meeting to adopt a 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. 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. However, due to the practical difficulties especially concerning the election among individual

members, it was decided to reverse the approach by increasing the weights of the National Members instead of decreasing the weight of the Individual Members.

After detailed discussions, it was decided to adopt a more balanced voting system between 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. For every 25 members of a National Society, National Delegate will have one vote with the minimum number of 2 votes and maximum number of 25 votes. The number of the members of the National Societies will be calculated as the average of the EAEE National Memberships dues received during the prior four years of the date of the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee agreed to restore a Secretary post in the Executive Committee who will be elected by the Executive Committee as existed in the previous EAEE Statutes.

**Item 9:**

- The President, Martin Koller summarised the meeting and expressed that all national members should be reminded that next conference will be a joint conference with the same proposal to both EAEE and ESC Executive Committees.
- Executive Committee Member Carlos Oliveira stated his opinion that in order to ask for financial support for retrofitting purposes from EU, EAEE would try one more time in Brussels. Executive Committee Member Robin Spence supported this proposal and added that EAEE should have a targeted objective for upgrading like critical structures (hospitals, schools, etc) and a meeting arrangement in Brussels should be organised soon before L'Aquila has been forgotten.
- It was decided to have the next Executive Committee Meeting in Skopje, Macedonia in Spring probably on April 24-25, 2010.

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

Atilla Ansal  
Secretary General