

Statutes of the EMSC (original French)

adopted by the 2024 members' general assembly

ARTICLE I

Name, status and location

1. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre, hereinafter called the "EMSC", is an international, non-governmental, non-profit association, the activity of the members of which is devoted to the promotion of seismological research.

2. The seat of EMSC is located at the Laboratoire de Détection Géophysique du Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA/LDG) Bât. BARD, Centre DAM - Ile de France, Bruyères le Châtel in Arpajon 91297 Cedex (France). It is entered in the "Registre des Associations de la Préfecture de l'Essonne", in conformity with the French law of 1 July 1901.

The seat of EMSC is located at the Laboratoire de Détection Géophysique.

ARTICLE II

Objectives of the EMSC

1. The principal objectives of the EMSC are:

- to establish and operate a system for rapid determination of the European and Mediterranean earthquake epicentres (location of major earthquakes within a delay of approximately one hour). The EMSC, acting as the central authority, is responsible for transmitting these results immediately to the appropriate international authorities and to the members in order to meet the needs of protection of society, scientific progress and general information. ;
- to determine, on a regular basis, the principal parameters (epicentre, depth, magnitude, ...) of the seismic events located within the European-Mediterranean region and for which sufficient basic data are available, and dispatch widely the corresponding results ;
- to collect the data necessary for the operations of the EMSC and make them available to other international, regional or national data centres (such as the International Seismological Centre, the United States National Earthquake Information Service, etc...) ;
- to comply, as fast as possible and within a time lag compatible with the EMSC's tasks, with any request related to detailed studies of specific events ;
- to assure the functioning of an European seismological data bank ;
- to promote the improvement of observational systems in the European-Mediterranean region through a critical examination of the seismological coverage, and to suggest methods for improving the quality of observations and their transmission to the EMSC ;
- to encourage scientific co-operation among the European and Mediterranean countries in the field of earthquake research, and to develop studies of general interest such as : epicentre location methods, construction of local and regional travel-time tables, magnitude determination, etc ...

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2. The territorial competence of the EMSC is defined in the internal rules (I.R.).
3. The EMSC shall abstain from any political activity.

ARTICLE III

Membership

The EMSC is composed of active members, key nodal members, members by right and corporate members.

1. Active members

Active members of the EMSC are those individuals and legal entities, who participate, on a regular basis, in its activities, contribute actively to the achievement of its objectives and pay annual dues. In particular, each active member shall, within the limits of his resources and in accordance with arrangements agreed upon with the Assembly, provide the EMSC with data in one's possession necessary to the achievement of its objectives listed in Article II above.

2. Key nodal members

The key nodal members are legal entities that, as proposed by the Executive Council and approved by the Assembly, co-operate, through a communication network, in processing the data in order to execute the specific tasks listed in the objectives as defined in article II. The key nodal members are exempted from paying dues but are entitled to participate in the Assembly with voting capacity.

3. Members by right

Members by right of the EMSC are those individuals and legal entities who render to the EMSC important services; they are exempted from paying dues but are entitled to participate in the Assembly with voting capacity. The European Seismological Commission (ESC), the International Seismological Centre (ISC), the National Earthquake Information Centre of the US Geological Survey (NEIC/USGS) and the Observatories and Research Facilities for European Seismology (ORFEUS), and are members by right. Other individual or legal entities may be admitted as members by right by the Assembly with a two thirds majority of the votes cast.

4. Corporate members

Corporate members are companies and organisations whose activities are related to the geosciences and/or who are interested in rapid information on earthquakes. The membership fee may not be lower than that of active members. It is set annually by the Bureau and may take into account the size of the company or the level of benefit derived from membership. Corporate members do not have voting rights but may attend the General Assemblies as observers.

ARTICLE IV

Organs of the EMSC

The organs of the EMSC are the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Coordination Bureau and the Scientific Council.

ARTICLE V

The Assembly

1. Constitution and procedures of the Assembly

1.1. The Assembly is composed of all the members of the EMSC. They meet under the chairmanship of the President of the EMSC, or, in his absence, of the first Vice-President, or in the absence of the latter, of a Chairman elected for that meeting. The Secretary General shall attend the meetings of the Assembly.

1.2. The mode of convocation of the Assembly, the periodicity of the meetings and the conditions of quorum and majority for taking decisions are fixed in the internal rules.

1.3. To reach the quorum, representatives present must hold, directly or by proxy, at least a simple majority of the votes. In case the quorum is not reached, a second meeting is called with the same agenda, at least a fortnight later but not later than one month after the first meeting has failed to reach the quorum ; then the Assembly can deliberate validly whatever the number of votes present.

2. Responsibilities of the Assembly

The Assembly shall determine the general policy and procedures of the EMSC and shall, in particular :

2.1 approve the nomination of the key nodal members and define their tasks;

2.2. elect the President of the EMSC for a term of office of three years;

2.3 ratify the nomination of the Vice-Presidents proposed by the key nodal members and elect among them the first Vice-President;

2.4. elect the members of the Executive Council, in accordance with Articles VI.2 and VI.3;

2.5. give advice to the President for the appointment of the Secretary General in accordance with Article IX ;

2.6. approve the rules of procedure of the EMSC;

2.7. approve the designation of the members of the Scientific Council defined in Article X;

2.8. Approve the annual report of the Secretary General, and the report of any other committee set up by the Assembly;

2.9. adopt the programme and the budgets of the EMSC, and approve the accounts;

2.10. determine the dissolution of the EMSC in accordance with Article XVII;

2.11. admit new members in accordance with Article XIII, and terminate the membership of any member who does not fulfil his obligations in accordance with Articles II, XIV, and XV;

2.12. amend the statutes in accordance with Article XVI.

3. Voting procedures

Only the EMSC members shall have votes in the Assembly. Each EMSC active member shall have, in the Assembly, the number of votes determined as a function of its contributed dues, according to regulations fixed by the EMSC internal rules. An active member shall not have more than two votes. Each member by right and each key nodal member shall have one vote.

ARTICLE VI

The Executive Council

1. In the interval between the sessions of the Assembly, the Executive Council takes up the organisation of the activities of the EMSC in accordance with the present statutes, rules of procedure and any other guidance from the Assembly.

2. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the elected members, and the Secretary General. The number of the elected members is three. Except for the Secretary General, none of them shall receive any remuneration by reasons of his functions within the Executive Council. In the performance of their duties, the members of the Executive Council shall act in the best interests of the EMSC.

3. The Vice-Presidents are proposed by the key nodal members; each key nodal member proposes one Vice-President; their designation is approved by the Assembly. Their mandate is for 3 years.

4. The members of the Executive Council are elected for a period of three years by the Assembly, and are eligible for consecutive re-election once only.

5. The Executive Council shall be chaired by the President of the EMSC, or by the first Vice-President.

6. The Secretary General arranges the meetings of the Executive Council and minutes the Council's decisions.

7. The responsibilities of the Executive Council are defined in the internal rules.

ARTICLE VII

Coordination Bureau

1. The harmonisation and the continuity of the execution of the EMSC tasks distributed among the key nodal members, is assured by the Coordination Bureau. Moreover, this Coordination Bureau is the correspondent of the European institutions.

The Coordination Bureau is in charge of:

- ensuring the continuity of EMSC activity between the meetings of the Executive Council ;

- participation of new members ;
 - seeking complementary sources of funding.
2. The Coordination Bureau is composed of the President, the first Vice-President and the Secretary General.

ARTICLE VIII

The President and the first Vice-President

1. The President and the first Vice-President will be elected by the Assembly for a term of office of three years.
2. The President shall authorise expenditure and represent the EMSC in all business and legal transactions. He may delegate to representatives, in particular to the Secretary General.
3. The other responsibilities of the President and the first Vice-President are defined in the internal rules.

ARTICLE IX

The Secretary General

1. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the President of the EMSC on the advice of the Assembly, for a renewable term of office of three years.
2. The Secretary General shall be responsible to the Executive Council for the functioning of the EMSC and for the execution of the decisions taken by the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Coordination Bureau.
3. The other responsibilities of the Secretary General are defined in the internal rules.

ARTICLE X

The Scientific Council

The Scientific Council has the role of advising the EMSC in the execution of its tasks; in particular the linkage with current research trends. It assures also the bond with the activity trend of ORFEUS Data Centre.

ARTICLE XI

Activities, budgets and contributions

1. The EMSC has two categories of activities:
 - 1.1. The "basic activity" described in Article II : it is financed by the general budget of the EMSC, to which all members contribute, in conformity with the provisions of the internal rules ;

1.2. "Additional activities": they are programmes or scientific projects which are undertaken on the approval of the Executive Council ; every "additional activity" shall be financed by a special budget, funded by the contributions specified in Article XI.2.

2. Members of the EMSC participating in an "additional activity" shall bear its net cost, after deduction of the income. They shall apportion this cost among themselves in proportions which they shall jointly agree and of which they shall inform the Secretary General.

ARTICLE XII

Resources

The resources of EMSC include:

- The contributions of the members;
- The subventions that are given by national or international organisations;
- The revenue of its assets;
- The sum provided by a counterpart in return for furnished services;
- Any other resources authorised by French or European Economic Community laws or regulations.

ARTICLE XIII

New members

1. Any individual or legal entity wishing to become an active member of the EMSC, must submit an application to the President who shall take the necessary steps to inform all EMSC members before this application is considered by the Assembly. The Executive Council shall advise the Assembly on any application. The Assembly shall make the final decision on any application.

2. The Executive Council shall propose to the Assembly the new members by right or the new key nodal member.

3. A majority of two-thirds of votes cast shall be required for the admission of a new member.

ARTICLE XIV

Withdrawal

After a year's membership, an active member may withdraw from the EMSC provided that a prior notice of intention of withdrawal has been given six months before the next Assembly.

ARTICLE XV

Default

If a member fails to fulfil his obligations as provided in these statutes or the internal rules, he will cease to be a member of the EMSC on a decision of the Assembly taken by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendment of the statutes

1. Any EMSC member may propose an amendment to the statutes by giving notice of it to the President and the Secretary General. The Secretary General must inform all members of any proposed amendment notifying them at least three months before it is discussed by the Assembly.

2. The Executive Council must advise the Assembly regarding any amendment which is proposed. The Assembly shall make the final decision. A majority of two-thirds of the votes cast shall be required for the adoption by the Assembly of an amendment to the statutes.

ARTICLE XVII

Dissolution

1. The EMSC may be dissolved at any time by a decision taken at an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly, by a majority of two-thirds of voting rights.

2. If, at the time of the liquidation of the EMSC, after settlement of all its debts and of all its commitments, any assets remain, these shall be transferred to one or more organisations having similar objectives.

ARTICLE XVIII

Final or transitional provisions

The statutes shall enter into force as soon as the Assembly has approved them. Upon his admission each member is committed to respect the present statutes and also the internal rules.

ARTICLE XIX

The Secretary General shall make known to the sous-préfecture in Palaiseau (Essonne), within three months:

- Changes having taken place in the composition of the Executive Council;
- Amendments adopted to the statutes;
- Transfer of the seat;
- Dissolution of the EMSC.



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ARTICLE XX

Internal rules shall be elaborated by the Executive Council and submitted for the approval of the Assembly by simple majority.