



Minutes from the EMS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

held at the European Microscopy Congress 2024 (EMC 2024), on Thursday August 29th 2024 at Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

According to the Constitution of EMS, a General Assembly of all individual members should be held at least once a year with the aim to discuss and determine the framework in which they communicate and cooperate. For details on the Constitution, see the EMS website: <http://www.euremicsoc.org>

Summary of the rules: All paid-up EMS members, including members of the Executive Board, have one vote. A quorum of 30 members is needed. The General Assembly will be chaired by the President of EMS. Decisions of the General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of votes. Two representatives of ECMA (European Corporate Member Assembly) have voting rights in the General Assembly.

Members present: 139, the meeting thus reached the required quorum of 30 members. For extra documents, see agenda.

The General Assembly was chaired by the EMS President, José María Valpuesta.

1. Welcome and confirmation of the agenda of the General Assembly

Welcome to the meeting by the EMS president.

Presentation of the current EMS Board members (2020-2024) and brief overview on the GA agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 General Assembly (vote)

Vote: The minutes were approved by all participants.

3. Report of the President, describing the activities of the Executive Board and the EMS in the period Sep. 2023 – Aug. 2024

Sponsored events:

Four events were sponsored in the 2nd period of 2023. In total 7 events were and will be sponsored by EMS in 2024 (4 in the 1st part and 3 in the 2nd part).

Scholarships:

In 2024, the European Microscopy Society (EMS) has provided 75 scholarships of € 400.00 each for the participation of early-stage career researchers at the 17th European Microscopy Congress (EMC2024).

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- *European Microscopy Awards 2024 winners:*
 - o **European Microscopy Prize for Life Sciences**
Tomas Čizmar (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena)
 - o **European Microscopy Prize for Material Sciences**
Quentin Ramasse (University of Leeds)

The winners presented their work at EMC2024 on Monday August 26th 2024 (30 min. speech), and were awarded with a certificate, a glass award plaque and € 3000.00 each (kindly offered by Thermofisher Scientific).

- *EMS 25th Anniversary:*
 - 1) A booklet dedicated to the 25th anniversary of EMS has been produced containing 21 articles and one poem about documentation on the 25 years of EMS advancements in the life science, physics and instrumentation “Vade mecum” to learn more about the most recent advances in EM, easy reading, “appetizer” for young scientists. Selection of contributors are winners of prizes such as Nobel, Kavli, European Microscopy Award, Ernst Ruska Award, IFSM medals, Harald Rose speakers, etc.
Availability: to all EMS members and participants at EMC2024 / Copenhagen, free of charge.
 - 2) A special IMC20 symposium at IMC20 “Commemorating 25 years of the European Microscopy Society” was held on Wednesday September 13th 2023 at IMC20-Busan, South Korea. Renowned speakers included:
 - Prof. Wolfgang Baumeister (MPI for Biochemistry, Martinsried)
“Cryo-electron tomography or the power of seeing the whole picture”
 - Prof. Johan Verbeeck (Ghent University)
“What can TEM learn from the particle physics community?”
- *EMS Yearbook 2024 (with activities from 2023):*

The booklet has now been distributed to all EMS members. The president thanked Servet Turan and Virginie Serin for their involvement in the preparation of this booklet.
- *Ems Newsletters:*

Every year, the EMS promotes its activities in the EMS news published in the I&M journal (about 4 issues/ year). This information is also provided in the society newsletters available on the EMS website and sent to our members.

4. Report from the Treasurer

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4.1 report 2023, and prospects 2024 & 2025 (vote)

4.2 report form auditors

4.3 election of new auditors

The EMS treasurer, Christian Schöfer, shared his report on the EMS budget. This included the final 2023 budget, an overview 2024 budget and the proposed 2025 budget.

Budget 2023, final

Income

The majority of income came from contributions from national societies and ECMA members as well as additional income from individual members, interest rates and from job postings for non-EMS members. In summary, an amount of € 59 854.39 was accrued.

Expenses

One EMS Extension meeting, 6 supported meetings and 21 scholarships to support registration fees for young scientists were disbursed (€ 22 100.00). The costs of two board meetings, one GA, one GC, professional secretarial support, the three Outstanding Paper Awards and other (bank) costs added up to total expenses of € 65 704.36. Thus, the annual balance for 2023 ended with a minus of € 5 849.97. Together with the overflow from 2022 (€ 124 522.07) EMS had total assets of € 118 672.10 as of December 31st 2023.

Budget 2024, running; (as of June 20th 2024)

Income

The main income will again come from the annual membership fees of EMS members via the National Societies and from ECMA members. Invoices to national societies and ECMA members have already been sent out and fees continue to arrive in our account. Most national societies paid their fees by August before EMC. Kind reminders to all members (national societies, individual and ECMA) have been already sent this year. Relaunches for the missing membership payments will be sent later. Other income will come from individual membership fees and job offers for non-EMS members. Altogether, income is expected to amount to € 48 900.

Expenses

No EMS Extension meeting will be supported due to EMC17; EMS will support up to 6 Sponsored meetings (€ 4 500.00) and awarded 75 travel grants for the attendance of young colleagues in the EMC (€ 400.00, totaling € 30 000.00). Further expenses will include the Outstanding Paper Awards, professional secretarial fees, two board meetings and bank charges, for an estimated total of € 68 650.00.

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It is thus expected to end the year 2024 with a minus of € 19 750.00. A compensation of this amount via EMS-dedicated share of the congress fees for EMC attendance can be expected for 2025.

Budget 2025, proposal

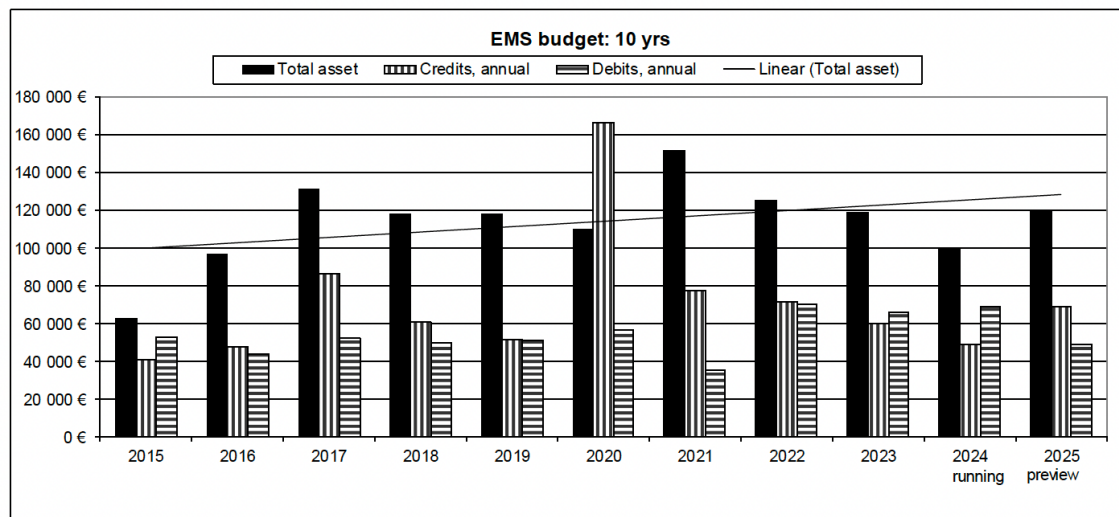
Income

The largest income will come from the annual fees of EMS members via the national societies and of ECMA members. Together with the interest rates of the savings account and advertising for non-EMS members and revenues from EMC17, we can expect income of € 68 900.

Expenses

An EMS extension meeting (€ 1 500.00), up to 5 sponsored meetings (€ 3 750.00) will be supported and 25 scholarships will be awarded for participation in congresses of young colleagues (€ 7 500.00). Other expenses will include the Outstanding Paper Awards, professional secretarial expenses, two board meetings and bank charges, for an estimated total of € 48 900.00. It is thus expected to end the year 2025 with a surplus of € 20 000.00, compensating for the deficit at the end of 2024.

Table EMS budget development/10 years:



Annotation: in 2020 the savings were merged with the giro account (Credits); note that Credits and Debits depict annual budget figures without overflow; Total asset includes overflows and shows figures at the end of the year.

Vote: The Treasurer report was approved by all participants.

Report of the auditors of the European Microscopy Society (EMS) and the European Microscopy Foundation (EMF):

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The report was prepared, not in 2020 but in 2022 (COVID situation). The next one will be done in 2026. It is summarized below:

“Jointly, we inspected the financial reports of the EMS and EMF that are connected with each other for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. We agree that the bookkeeping as carried out by the EMS treasurer Christian Schöfer is very clear and correct in every respect. All the individual credits and expenses are documented carefully. We checked that they can be traced back to their appropriate receipts. To summarize the general budgetary situation, Christian Schöfer made graphic representations outlining the development of the budgets from 2016 up to 2021 in a clear way. Therefore, the auditors recommend without any doubt the formal approval of the actions of the treasurer for the years 2016 to 2021.”

Signed in Vienna, on November 22nd 2022, by the 2 auditors: Philippe LECLÈRE and Johannes BERNARDI.

Election of new auditors:

• **Knut Müller-Caspary**

Dept. of Chemistry, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich (LMU), Germany;
Transmission electron microscopy of nanostructures

• **Ales Benda**

Head of the optical microscopy facility;
Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

5. Report of the status of EMC2024 Copenhagen

The EMC chair, Klaus QVORTRUP, presented a report on the latest updates of EMC2024. These includes:

emc2024 Key numbers:

- Registrants: 2 500 total (expected)
- Exhibition: 94% sold
- Exhibitors: 95
- No. of Abstracts: 1 310
- Scientific Sessions: 35 (58 2 h slots)
- Oral Presentations: 422
- Invited Speakers: 50
- Plenaries: 5
- Posters: 775
- Preconference Workshops: 7
- Open Science: 10 exhibitors
- Vendor workshops: 17
- Scientific Image Competition: 42 submissions
- Gala dinner: 800 pax (all sold out)

Grants/Funding:

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- Achieved foundation funding to August 2024: DKK 480 000.00 (€ 64 320.00)
- Grants offered and allocated: 139 travel grants of € 400.00 for young scientists and technicians. Awardees have been notified.

Budget Highlights to August 28th 2024:

Expenses

Preliminary fixed expenses: € 1 406 636.00

Preliminary variable expenses: € 398 600.00

Total preliminary expenses: € 1 805 236.00

Income

Estimated registration fees: € 831 234.00

Estimated sponsorships, exhibition funding and workshops: € 994 092.00

Total estimated income: € 1 825 326.00

Registration income is based on 1 480 delegates

Exhibition income is based on sale of 1 550m/sq.

Registration fees (early bird): from € 295.00 (student), € 475.00 (EMS)

These numbers should be confirmed and updated at the end of the congress.

6. Outstanding Paper Award

In 2024, 19 high-quality and eligible papers from 2023 were nominated.

The jury:

Instrumentation and Technique Development: Pete Nellist, UK and Ute Kaiser, Germany

Life Science: Iva Tolic, Croatia and Florian Schur, Austria

Materials Science: Maria Varela, Spain and Miran Ceh, Slovenia

Chaired by Randi Holmestad (EMS board member, Norway)

The winners received their prize and presented their work. Below are the 3 selected papers:

- **Instrumentation and Technique development: Júlia Ferrer Ortas**, Pierre Mahou, Sophie Escot, Chiara Stringari, Nicolas N. B. David, Laure Bally Cuif, Nicolas Dray, Michel Négrerie, Willy Supatto, & Emmanuel Beaurepaire, Label-free imaging of red blood cells and oxygenation with color third-order sum-frequency generation microscopy, *Light: Science & Applications*, **12**, 29, 2023. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41377-022-01064-4>
- **Life Science: Shotaro Otsuka**, Jeremy O. B. Tempkin, Wanlu Zhang, Antonio Z. Politi, Arina Rybina, M. Julius Hossain, Moritz Kueblbeck, Andrea Callegari, Birgit Koch, Natalia Rosalia Morero, Andrej Sali & Jan Ellenberg, A quantitative map of nuclear pore assembly reveals two distinct mechanisms, *Nature* **613**, 575-581, 2023. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05528-w>

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- **Materials Science: Matteo Monai, Kellie Jenkinson, Angela E. M. Melcherts, Jaap N. Louwen, Ece A. Irmak, Sandra Van Aert, Thomas Altantzis, Charlotte Vogt, Ward van der Stam, Tomáš Duchoň, Břetislav Šmíd, Esther Groeneveld, Peter Berben, Sara Bals & Bert M. Weckhuysen, Restructuring of titanium oxide overlayers over nickel nanoparticles during catalysis, Science 380, 644–651, 2023. <https://www.science.org/doi/epdf/10.1126/science.adf6984>**

7. Upcoming meetings

7.1: EMS extension in 2025: decision of the executive board

7.2 EMC2028 venue: decision from the General Council

- *EMS extension in 2025:* The Board decision on the next EMS extension was announced:

17th Multinational Congress on Microscopy (17MCM)

To be held from 7 to 12 September 2025 in Portorož (Slovenia)

The meeting will be jointly organized by the Austrian, Croatian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Italian, Serbian, Slovenian and Turkish societies.

- *EMC2028 venue:*

The procedure for the election of the next EMS congress in 2028 was revised and presented as follows:

- 1) Call for applications from the national societies (Call in May 2023. Letter of intent in September 2023)
- 2) Preliminary bids were received at EMS (February 2024), evaluated by the Executive Board (February-March 2024)
- 3) A critical report by the Executive Board was prepared and sent to the final bids (end of March 2024), which may make modifications for the presentation at the EMC
- 4) The final bids were sent to EMS and made public (June 2024)
- 5) A public presentation of the bids was made
- 6) The bids were presented at the General Council, and the election took place.

Two bids were presented (Barcelona and Brno) and the winner, elected at the Council meeting on Wednesday August 27th 2025, was announced:

The 18th European Microscopy Congress (EMC2028) to be held in Barcelona, Spain September 18-22 2028.

Votes: 27 votes (1 blank, 17 Barcelona, 9 Brno)

8. Prospect on EMS activities

- Participation in IMC21 which will be held in Liverpool from August 28th to September 5th 2026
- Participation in IMC22 which will held in Berlin

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- Social networks, websites, yearbook, Newsletters, Job/ events announcements

9. Changes to the constitution

Potential changes to the EMS bylaws:

- Use of “General secretary” instead of “Secretary”
- Preferably a term of 8 years instead of 12 for board members (point D4)

From

“Membership of the Executive Board, irrespective of function, re-election, change of function, separate terms in office, should not exceed **twelve years.**”

To:

“Membership of the Executive Board, irrespective of function, re-election, change of function, separate terms in office, should not exceed eight years.”

- **Explicit statement regarding a gender balance in the executive board (point VII.5)**

From

“The Executive Board will make a balanced proposal from the list of candidates for the next Executive Board, in such a way that the proposed candidates represent different countries in Europe and different disciplines in microscopy from the physical, life sciences and instrumentation areas”

to:

“The Executive Board will make a balanced proposal from the list of candidates for the next Executive Board, in such a way that the proposed candidates represent different countries in Europe, different disciplines in microscopy from the physical, life sciences areas and gender balance”

The changes were voted and accepted by the EMS members present.

10. New Executive Board 2024 – 2028

10.1 presentation and vote

10.2 thanks to leaving members

The former and new EMS executive board were presented. As well as the procedure detailed below:

Procedure

- Call for nominations for new Executive Board members to the national societies (sent in September 2023, + several reminders)
- Nominations were received until December 15th 2023
- Nominations were carefully discussed during the meeting of the executive board of March 21-22 (Copenhagen).
- Geographical, gender and discipline balance has been taken into account.

Rules: In accordance with the constitution of the EMS, the current Executive Board shall present a balanced proposal of candidates to constitute the next Executive Board, which

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will take office for a period of four years starting immediately after the General Assembly of EMC 2024. The Board will ensure that the proposed candidates represent countries across Europe and different disciplines of microscopy in the field of Materials, Life Sciences and Instrumentation. The Board will not consist of more than 14 members. The new Executive Board should be approved at the EMS General Assembly on Thursday 29th 2024.

After consulting with different individual and society members, the Executive Board compiled the following list of candidates, including selected functions:

President: Vladislav KRZYZANEK (Brno, Czech Republic)

General Secretary: Catherine VENIEN-BRYAN (Paris, France)

Treasurer: Philippe LECLÈRE (Mons, Belgium)

Members: Agnes KITTEL (Budapest, Hungary), Lewys JONES (Dublin, Ireland), Thomas MÜLLER-REICHERT (Dresden, Germany), Saso STURM (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Servet TURAN (Eskişehir, Turkey), Paul VERKADE (Bristol, United Kingdom), Igor WEBER (Zagreb, Croatia)

The following people being *ex-officio* members of the Executive Board:

Past-president: José-Maria VALPUESTA (Madrid, Spain)

Chair EMC2024: Klaus QVORTRUP (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Chair EMC2028: Winner of EMC 2028, to be voted at the General Council

ECMA representative: Marc PEETERS (Thermofisher)

Change in the European Corporate Member Assembly (ECMA), Marc PEETERS is the new ECMA representative, replacing Kornelia WEIDEMANN.

The proposed Board would consist of 8 members from Life Sciences and 5 members from Material Sciences, representing 10 different national societies. There will be 10 men and 3 women.

Vote: The new EMS Executive Board proposal was approved by all participants.

The EMS President extended a big thank you to our leaving members.

11. Any further matter to be discussed

No further matters were discussed.

12. Closing of the meeting by the new President

The leaving and new EMS president closed the meeting.

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Annexes:

- *Minutes of the previous GA (2023)*
- *Report from the EMS Treasurer*

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