



# **Veðurstofa Íslands Report**

**Magnús Már Magnússon**  
(secretary of meeting)

**The 26th ICWED meeting in Reykjavík  
15 - 17 May, 1996  
Minutes of meeting**

**VÍ-G97040-YS01  
Reykjavík  
Nóvember 1997**

# **The 26<sup>th</sup> ICWED meeting in Reykjavík**

## **15 - 17 May, 1996**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Magnús Jónsson of the Icelandic Meteorological Office welcomed the guests and went over the logistics and the general agenda and gave the chair to the outgoing chairman Dr. Arne Grammeltvedt.

#### **1. OPENING OF MEETING**

Dr. Arne Grammeltvedt opened the meeting and announced that the Spanish director, Mr. Bautista, had sent his apologies. The chairman welcomed the Spanish representatives, Dr. C. Martinez-Lopes and Mr. Juan Segovia.

Dr. Grammeltvedt gave a short overview of the past year which had been very busy.

#### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY**

Dr. Erkki Jatila was unanimously elected as chairman until the next ordinary ICWED meeting and Mr. Magnús M. Magnússon (IMO) was requested to serve as secretary.

Dr. Jatila took the chair and thanked for the honour and welcomed Mr. Udo Gärtner of the Deutscher Wetterdienst as a new member of ICWED.

#### **3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The draft agenda was adopted with the change to have para 17 to read "Coordination with ICCED and the Baltic countries". The agenda is attached as Annex I.

#### **4. DATA POLICY**

##### **4.1 Progress of the Implementation of WMO Resolution 40**

The previous chairman of ICWED summarized the flow of actions taken by ICWED since WMO Cg-XII in the implementation of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII). A set of conditions for additional data and products was developed following strictly the spirit and the letter of the Resolution. All of the ICWED members, except Spain and Portugal, had submitted to WMO the list of additional data and products with the agreed-upon conditions. The WMO Secretariat had distributed this information to the WMO Members on 12 April 1996.

## 4.2 Relations With the US

Unfortunately the US NWS had interpreted the ICWED conditions so that they go in some cases beyond the provisions and intention of Resolution 40. In later discussions Joe Friday had indicated that rewording of some of the ICWED conditions would help him and indeed some other PRs of WMO to understand better the ICWED conditions.

The meeting felt highly important that the implementation of Resolution 40 should start expeditiously in order to enable the broadening and enhancing of the international exchange of data and products. Therefore it was considered imperative to continue discussing the data policy issue with US in order to achieve mutual understanding on the means and ways of the implementation of Resolution 40.

The meeting agreed that the Chairman of ICWED will write to Joe Friday clarifying once again the points in the ICWED conditions having been of greatest concern to him. In order to assist Joe Friday to understand the conditions better, the meeting considered an alternative wording of some of the conditions. The Chairman should attach these amendments to his letter; and the text for the letter and the attachment were agreed upon (Annex 2).

Furthermore, it was agreed that it would be useful to have discussions on data policy with Joe Friday before or during the first days of the next WMO EC. The Chairman was requested to arrange such a meeting.

The outcome of the discussions with Joe Friday and other PRs attending WMO EC will be reviewed in a special ICWED session to be organized during the next ECMWF Council session (3-4 July 1996).

Finally, the meeting considered highly desirable that a brochure be prepared explaining the European conditions in order to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 40 without any delay. INTAD will be requested to develop such a text during early autumn 1996.

## 5. ECOMET RELATED MATTERS

### 5.1 European Developments in Government Policy Regarding Privatization and Commercial Meteorology

Members gave an overview of the various trends in their respective countries. There is increasing pressure to separate commercial activities from other duties of the NWSs.

The separation in one form or another is presently under consideration, e.g., in the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Portugal and Germany. Mr Gärtner informed that only about 10% of their income may be considered as being generated by commercial activities.

Mr. H. Sandebring told of a report that had been compiled in Sweden on the future of the SHMI, its official duties and commercial activities. The report also described the benefit to the taxpayers to keep the service as a single entity. He was requested to have the report translated into English and distributed to the members as soon as possible.



The meeting noted further that environmentalists demanded all environmental data free of charge thus adding a further dimension to the question of data handling in addition to the demands from the private sector. There had also been complaints from private companies that individual countries were subsidizing their commercial services. With budgetary crises in some countries and all spending being under scrutiny there is an increasing tendency to leave increases or improvements to the private sector and that left the situation particularly unstable.

Dr. J. Hunt informed that in their experience it improved the image of NWS if it had a partner from the private sector, thus giving an impression of being "private". The partners in the UK are not meteorologically oriented but e.g. telephone and computer companies.

## 5.2 Relations with the Private Sector

Chairman of the ECOMET council Mr. Hans Sandebring informed that Sweden and Portugal are ready for signing the ECOMET agreement, bringing the membership count up to nine i.e. Sweden, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Iceland, Portugal, France, Norway and Finland.

He described some problems in the ECOMET relations with the private sector summarized them under two headings. First there have been complaints from the private sector about availability of data and its content. He stressed that all the data and all the products that we use in commercial ventures must be made available, also to the private companies. Second, the private sector has complained about the poor technology that NMSs have to deliver data. They would like to have a single point such as the ECMWF where all NMS's data could be reached. In addition, standard complaints include the pricing of data and the lack of a catalogue of what is available. Also it has been pointed out that according to WMO Res. 40, all data concerning public safety should be available free of charge. This raised the question of what data should be made available since e.g. the operations in the North Sea have special requirements with regard to safety which, according to the private sector should thus be available free of charge.

Dr. Hunt suggested that the private sector should be asked for specifics regarding the availability of data. He also pointed out that in regard to the single point data distribution this would lend itself to the possibility to include a partner to invest in the equipment needed and do the distributing. J-P Beysson disclosed that a system of direct access to MF database is almost complete in France. He also cast doubt as to the benefits of having a single European data distribution point and was not even sure that this was needed.

**It was agreed that UK and France be asked to prepare a proposal for the data distribution technique. The proposal will be discussed at the next ECOMET meeting.**

Mr. Sandebring asked those members that had not already done so, to reply to a request sent by ECOMET that NMSs describe their auditing and arbitration procedures, no later than in a six months' time. This information is needed for the EU Commission.

Members confirmed their commitment to comply with WMO Res. 40 which states that severe weather warnings must be made available to the private sector so they can include them in their weather reports. It was understood that it was the responsibility of those individual companies to pay the delivery costs.

**It was agreed to arrange a meeting with representatives of the private sector in connection with the General Assembly in Brussels in July on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> of July in order to enable the private sector to explain their views on ECOMET and related matters.**

## **6. THE EUROPEAN WEATHER CHANNEL**

Members informed on the interest of a U.S. company called the Weather Channel that had approached Germany, Sweden, Spain, France, UK and Finland, with the view to start providing weather information to the TV audience. The company now distributes weather reports through cable TV in Germany in cooperation with DWD.

It was agreed that on ICWED basis, member countries keep each other informed and the matter will be taken up at the next meeting.

## **7. EXCHANGE AND COORDINATION OF HAZARDOUS WEATHER INFORMATION BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

Members appreciated the importance of the issue and that this is handled in WMO circles under CBS and RA-VI. Members gave their full support to the president of RA-VI to push this issue.

## **8. STRATEGIC MATTERS IN THE DOMAIN OF AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY, WITH REFERENCE TO WMO RES. 14 CG-XLL**

J-P Beysson introduced a draft document France had been asked to prepare for the next WMO Exec. council meeting. The paper stresses that WMO should defend the interest of the member countries and both WMO and its member countries should be steadfast in dealing with ICAO.

Members appreciated the importance of the issue and expressed their gratitude and agreement with the draft and their wish that the WMO take this very seriously and would push the issue.

## **9. WMO**

### **9.1 Terms of office of the SG of WMO**

The limitation of the terms of office of Secretary-General was considered to be a matter of principle and should be viewed as a means to improve the functioning of the WMO.

It was agreed to delay the decision as to how to proceed until spring of 1997.



## 9.2 Reduction in the number of WMO commissions / Review of the structure of WMO

Dr. Grammeltvedt presented the matter and disclosed that there was a working group going over the matter and it was agreed to defer further discussions until the results of the group is presented.

## 9.3 Executive Council

The subject was discussed under item 4 on the agenda, re. U.S. relations.

The question of a suitable candidate for the post of SG of the WMO was also addressed.

## 10. EUMETSAT

Meeting noted that a long term plan for EUMETSAT will be presented at the EUMETSAT council meeting in June.

A general discussion took place regarding such issues as the future role of EUMETSAT, its market potential etc.

Dr. E. Jatila informed the meeting that Jorma Riissanen of Finland would be available for the re-election to the chair of EUMETSAT council if so desired. He further informed that Finland had recently submitted Riissanen's candidature for the chair of PB-EO of ESA. Jatila agreed to keep ICWED promptly informed of any developments.

## 11. ECMWF

The question regarding who should be the legal successor to The People's Republic of Yugoslavia at the ECMWF Council was addressed. It was noted that it had been agreed upon in a council meeting to wait for the UN to resolve the issue.

The Czech Republic has expressed an interest in joining with a similar status as Hungary. Cyprus has also shown interest in closer co-operation with the Centre. Similar intentions were expressed by some North-African states.

It was noted that the ECMWF Council had decided that the membership should be restricted to Western and Central Europe, and the Baltic states.

## 12. EUMETNET RELATED ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED BY THE EUMETNET COUNCIL

### 12.1 Recommendation to the EUMETNET council on the potential status as observers by those who have not signed

Dr. H. Fijnaut presented that Italy is the newest member and Switzerland, Ireland and Belgium are expected to join by the end of the year.

It was decided to leave EUMETNET decisions for the EUMETNET Council meeting.

### **13. ASAP EKOFISK STATION**

Dr. Grammeltvedt informed that the station had proven to be very economical. It was agreed to authorize Norway to take necessary steps to continue with this project. In addition Norway was asked to prepare a proposal to have the ASAP Ekofisk project transferred to a EUMETNET project.

### **14. FUTURE OF THE OFF-SHORE PANEL**

The meeting discussed the role and future of the Off-Shore panel and gave support for its continuation.

### **15. COST**

There are now 9 COST projects related to meteorology, two more in the final stages of preparations and they will be approved shortly. It was the consensus of the meeting that COST projects are highly important and that when reaching operational level they could become EUMETNET projects, if so desired.

### **16. STATUS OF NON-ICWED MEMBERS IN ICWED ACTIVITIES**

The meeting noted that some countries outside the ICWED area have indicated interest in the ICWED activities. It was agreed, however, that at this stage it would be impractical to enlarge the ICWED, but the question will be taken under consideration at a later date. Furthermore, it was noted that some countries would like to be associated with EUMETNET, ECOMET, ECMWF and EUMETSAT.

### **17. COORDINATION WITH ICCED AND THE BALTIC COUNTRIES**

The meeting was informed of some of the activities of ICCED (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

The NMSs of the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) have intensified mutual cooperation and they also cooperate in particular with Finland. It was agreed that close cooperation between ICWED, ICCED and the Baltic countries is highly desirable and that the Chairman of ICWED should write a letter to the directors of NMSs of these countries describing shortly the outcome of the present ICWED meeting.

### **18. SIMPLIFICATION OF THE SCHEDULE OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

Deferred to next year.

## 19. INTAD

### 19.1 Report on any matters not reported under relevant agenda items

All items have been addressed.

### 19.2 New Tasks

Meeting noted the important role of INTAD in preparing material for ICWED. New tasks will be given to INTAD by the chairman at a later date.

## 20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sweden had hosted a climate conference and Austria has offered to hold a similar conference in 1998. ICWED noted with appreciation and deemed this to be very positive.

Belgium organized 3 weeks ago an expert meeting of NMSs who have a geophysical interest (magnetism, seismology, atmospheric electricity etc.) with the intention to increase European cooperation within this field.

Meeting agreed that members will stress the importance of telecommunication frequencies now allocated for meteorology, to national delegations attending meetings of relevant ITU bodies.

Dr. Jorge Manuel Cristina informed the members that this would be his last ICWED meeting as director of the Portuguese Meteorological Service. He thanked everybody and extended his best wishes to all involved in ICWED. The Chairman thanked him for his valuable contributions over several years.

## 21. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

Dr. George Nikolakakos invited the members to Greece for the next meeting to be held in late April or early May 1997. Mr. Udo Gärtner proposed to have the 1998 meeting in Germany. The meeting received both invitations with great appreciation.

## 22. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 16.50 on 17 May. The Chairman thanked Magnus Jónsson and his staff for the excellent arrangements made and, in particular, for the unique hospitality shown. The expedition to Vatnajökull Glacier and to the windiest weather station in Europe in Vestmanna Islands will long live in the minds of the participants.



ICWED 26th meeting  
Informal Conference of West European Directors  
Reykjavík 15–17 May 1996  
Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of Chairman.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Data policy.
  - 4.1 Progress on the implementation of WMO Resolution 40.
  - 4.2 Relation with the US.
5. ECOMET related matters.
  - 5.1 European developments in government policy regarding privatization and commercial meteorology.
  - 5.2 Relations with the private sector.
6. The European Weather Channel.
7. Exchange and coordination of hazardous weather information between neighbouring countries.
8. Strategic matters in the domain of aeronautical meteorology, with reference to WMO Res 14 Cg-XII.
9. WMO
  - 9.1 Terms of office of the SG of WMO.
  - 9.2 Reduction in the number of WMO Commissions/Review of the structure of WMO
  - 9.3 Executive Council
10. EUMETSAT
  - 10.1 The future of Earth Observations (EUMETSAT, ESA, METOP)

11. ECMWF
  - 11.1 Questions related to the membership situation.
12. EUMETNET related activities not covered by the EUMETNET council.
  - 12.1 Recommendation to the EUMETNET Council on the potential status as observers by those who have not signed.
  - 12.2 Potential EUMETNET Programmes.
13. ASAP Ekofisk station.
14. Future of the off-shore Panel.
15. COST.
16. Status of non-ICWED members in ICWED activities.
17. Coordination with ICCED and the Baltic countries.
18. Simplification of the schedule of Directors meetings.
19. INTAD.
  - 19.1 Report on any matters not reported under the relevant agenda items.
  - 19.2 New tasks.
20. Any other business.
21. Date and place of the 27th session.



# ICWED-fundur

## gestalisti

Pátttakendur:	Land
Magnús Jónsson, veðurstofustjóri Karítas Sigurðardóttir	Ísland
Mr H.M. Fijnaut, veðurstofustjóri Mrs R. Fijnaut-Linder	Holland
Dr Erkki Jättilä, veðurstofustjóri Mrs Marja Jättilä	Finnland
Dr Jorge Manuel Simões Cristina, veðurstofustjóri Mrs Maria Helena Simões Cristina	Portúgal
Dr Hans Sandebring, veðurstofustjóri Mrs Monica Östfeldt	Svíþjóð
Mr Jean-Pierre Beysson, veðurstofustjóri Mrs. ... Beysson	Frakkland
Prof. Dr Peter Steinhauser, veðurstofustjóri Dr Sigríð Steinhauser	Austurríki
Dr Lars P. Prahm, veðurstofustjóri Mrs Prahm	Danmörk
Mr Juan Segovia (aðstm.), Mrs Juana A. Mayoral	Spánn
Dr Thomas Gutermann, veðurstofustjóri	Sviss
Dr. Carlo Finizio, veðurstofustjóri	Ítalía
Mr Declan J. Murphy, veðurstofustjóri	Írland
Dr George Nikolakakos, veðurstofustjóri	Grikkland
Mr Udo Gärtner, veðurstofustjóri	Þýskaland
Prof. Julian Hunt, veðurstofustjóri	Bretland
Dr Arne Grammeltvedt, veðurstofustjóri og	Noregur
Dr Henri Malcorps, veðurstofustjóri	Belgía
Mrs Martinez-Lope ( mætir f.h. veðurstjóra)	Spánn
Mr Denis Lambergeon (aðstm.)	Frakkland
Mr Claude Pastre (EUMETNET)	Frakkland
Mrs Maryse Le Floch (EUMETNET)	Frakkland

**26th ICWED**  
Informal Conference of West European Directors  
Grand Hotel Reykjavík  
May 14th – 18th 1996  
Preliminary programme

**Tuesday, May 14th:**

Arrival in Iceland  
— Transfer from Keflavík airport to the Grand Hotel, Reykjavík

**Wednesday, May 15th:**

09:00 – 12:00	Meeting	— Conference room "Háteigur" top floor
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee-break	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	— Restaurant "Seven Roses" at Grand Hotel Reykjavík
13:00 – 16:30	Meeting	
14:30 – 14:50	Coffee-break	

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10:00 – 15:00	Excursion for accompanying guests	— City sight-seeing
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**Friday, May 17th:**

08:30 – 09:00	Presentation of FASTEX	— Conference room "Háteigur" top floor
09:00 – 12:00	Meeting	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee-break	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	— Restaurant "Seven Roses" at Grand Hotel Reykjavík
13:00 – 16:00	Meeting	
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee-break	

**Saturday May 18th:**

Departure or optional excursions

**Sunday May 19th:**

Departure



## LIST OF INFORMAL CONFERENCES OF DIRECTORS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

1971	Meeting n°	1:	PORTUGAL, Lisbon, October
1972	-	2:	SWITZERLAND, Lucerne, 19-26 April
1973	-	3:	UK, Bracknell, 8-9 May
1974	-	4:	NORWAY, Oslo, 6-7 May
1975	-	5:	ITALY, Rome, 12-13 March
1976	-	6:	SWEDEN, Norrköping, 28-30 June
1977	-	7:	SPAIN, Palma de Mallorca, 20-22 April
1978	-	8:	ICELAND, Reykjavik, 9-11 May
1979	-	9:	FRANCE, Bordeaux, 27-29 March
1980	-	10:	GREECE, Athens, 14-16 April
1981	-	11:	WEST GERMANY, Munich, 8-11 April
1982	-	12:	NETHERLANDS, Hague, 14-16 April
1983	-	13:	FINLAND, Helsinki, 6-8 April
1984	-	14:	PORTUGAL, Algarve, 11-13 April
1985	-	15:	DENMARK, Copenhagen, 23-26 April
1986	-	16:	SWITZERLAND, Zürich, 2-4 April
1987	-	17:	AUSTRIA, Vienna, 6-9 April
1988	-	18:	BELGIUM, Bruxelles, 6-8 April
1989	-	19:	IRELAND, Dublin, 25-27 April
1990	-	20:	SCOTLAND, Edinburgh, 25-27 April
1991	-	21:	FRANCE, Toulouse, 16-19 April
1992	-	22:	NORWAY, Bergen, 5-8 May
1993	-	23:	ITALY, Rome, 28-30 April
1994	-	24:	SWEDEN, Kiruna, 12-15 April
1995	-	25:	SPAIN, Sevilla, 5-7 April
1996	-	26:	ICELAND, Reykjavik, 15-17 May