



Centre Sismologique Euro-Méditerranéen European Mediterranean Seismological Centre

Internal rules of the EMSC

PREAMBLE

Earthquakes are the cause of severe damage to human beings and property. It is therefore essential to take all possible steps to reduce this damage. Carrying out this work needs some centralised body in charge of determining as rapidly as possible the parameters of the seismic sources. It is technically possible to determine with sufficient accuracy and considerable speed the place of occurrence of an earthquake, which allows effective intervention of emergency services and of scientific parties.

The final determination of epicentres is undertaken, for the world as a whole, by the International Seismological Centre ; this body supplies results with an average time-lag of two years. The European Seismological Commission (ESC), a regional commission of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), which is itself a specialised association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), a member organisation of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), considering that the European-Mediterranean region displayed a potentially dangerous seismic activity, considering furthermore that it was necessary, for reasons of protection of society and evaluation of earthquake danger in the region for which it is competent, that a scientific body should undertake the very rapid (close to real-time) determination of the epicentres of potentially destructive European-Mediterranean earthquakes, as well as the rapid determination of earthquakes of lesser magnitude, recommended in 1975 the creation of the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). This recommendation subsequently gained the support of IASPEI and IUGG. The centre commenced operation at the IPG in Strasbourg on 1 January 1976 and formally received its statutes in 1983. The EMSC, therefore continued, within the European-Mediterranean region, the activity of the former Central International Bureau of Seismology, housed at the Institute of Physics of the Earth in Strasbourg, and which has ceased its activity in 1975.

The EMSC was charged in 1987 by the Council of Europe to provide the latter with seismic warnings in the framework of the Open Partial Agreement (OPA) on the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

As a result of the technical evolution that allows the distribution of the principle tasks of EMSC into a number of seismological centres integrated in a communication network, the Assembly of EMSC in Strasbourg, April 1993, proposed that a strategy be formulated to take advantage of the new developments. The statutes were modified as a consequence of the Extraordinary Assembly on 13 December 1993, and the seat of EMSC has been moved to the Laboratoire de Détection Géophysique du Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA/LDG) in Bruyères-le-Châtel. (Essonne)



ARTICLE I

Area of Competence

The geographic area of competence of the EMSC is the zone extending :

- westwards : up to mid-Atlantic ridge, north of 30°N ;
- northwards : up to the Arctic ocean ;
- eastwards : up to the Urals and the regions bordering the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea ;
- southwards : up to the regions bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

Additionally, the competent region includes, as far as possible, member countries of the Open Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, outside the above mentioned zone.

ARTICLE II

Functioning of the Assembly and the right of vote

1. The Assembly shall meet at least once a year, on written notice delivered by the Secretary General, sent fifteen days at the latest before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Extraordinary meetings can be convened by the Secretary General:

- on the instruction of either the President or the Executive Council ;
- at the request, with reasons given, of one third of the members of the EMSC.

2. In order to reach the quorum half of the members should be present or be represented.

3. The Assembly may invite international organisations to send observers to its meetings.

4. Except where the statutes specify otherwise, the passing of a resolution requires a majority of the votes cast. In this respect, blank and spoiled votes shall not be considered as votes cast.

5. The votes of a member, in the Assembly, may be cast by the member personally present, or by any other person attending the Assembly who has been authorised to cast the votes.

6. Postal ballots are acceptable.

ARTICLE III

Responsibilities of the Executive Council

In accordance with the statutes and the Assembly's directives, the Executive Council :

1. shall prepare, on the proposal of the Secretary General, the budget of the EMSC ;



2. shall prepare, on the proposal of the Secretary General, the agenda and working programme of the Assembly's meetings ;

3. may set up, on its own responsibility, for a period not exceeding two years, ad hoc committees with a remit to study specific points ;

4. may, in urgent cases, approve the creation of an "additional activity" as defined in Article XI-1-2, subject to confirmation by the Assembly at its next meeting ;

5. is competent for making any modifications of the EMSC internal rules ;

6. shall give advice to the Assembly on the annual report of the Secretary General.

ARTICLE IV

Responsibilities of the Coordination Bureau

The Coordination Bureau is responsible to inform the appropriate European Institutions and specifically the Executive Secretariat of the Open Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe of any major event in the European-Mediterranean region.

ARTICLE V

Responsibilities of the President

The President :

1. shall chair meetings of the Assembly and of the Executive Council. He may appoint a deputy for this purpose, in particular the first Vice-President ;

2. may cause an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly to be convened ;

3. shall receive applications for membership as provided in Article XIII.1. of the statutes ;

4. shall appoint the Secretary General on the advice of the Assembly.

5. shall determine the agenda of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VI

Responsibilities of the Secretary General

The Secretary General:

1. shall keep the minutes of the Assembly and shall record the decisions of the Executive Council and the Coordination Bureau ;

2. shall propose to the Executive Council a draft of the budget of the EMSC ;

3. shall propose to the Executive Council a draft of the agenda and the working programme of the Assembly's meetings ;



4. shall ensure liaison with EMSC members, in particular by sending them the minutes of the decisions taken by the Executive Council or the Coordination Bureau ;
5. provide for relations with appropriate non-member organisations ;
6. prepare an annual report which is presented to the Assembly on the advice of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII

Composition and responsibilities of the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council of EMSC together with that of ORFEUS is composed of 5 members, jointly appointed by the ESC. It holds at least one annual public meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Contributions of the members

All the active members of the EMSC shall make an annual contribution to the EMSC general budget. The basic contribution shall be fixed by the Assembly. Contributions must be paid in Euros.

ARTICLE IX

1. Nominations of the key nodal members

1. The EMSC Assembly shall nominate the key nodal members of the EMSC to execute the specific tasks defined in Article II of the statutes.

2. The specific tasks of each of the key nodal members shall be summarised in a separate memorandum of understanding between each of them and the EMSC.

2. The tasks of the key nodal members

1. Rapid determination of epicentres:

1. The execution of the rapid determination of epicentres of major earthquakes in the European-Mediterranean region shall be done within a delay of approximately one hour.

2. The rapid determination of epicentres shall be done in cooperation with the EMSC members and the data contributors. In order to execute the rapid determination task, in case of a major earthquake, the EMSC shall use the data of the key nodal members and data gathered from as many as possible other seismological centres, during that time.

3. The magnitude threshold for the execution of the rapid determination of epicentres is set to $M_s=5.5$ in the geographical zone of the EMSC (as specified in Article I of the Internal Rules), and $M_s=6.0$ as far as possible in the member countries of the Open Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe.

4. The magnitude threshold in the geographical zone of the EMSC (as specified in Article I of the Internal Rules) shall be lowered to about $M_s=5.0$ wherever possible if the physical conditions allow.



5. The results of the rapid determination of major earthquakes in the European-Mediterranean region shall be disseminated immediately, by the EMSC Coordination Bureau, to all the members of the EMSC, the appropriate European and international authorities, and the data contributors.

2. Routine determination of epicentres:

1. The routine determination of epicentres (earthquake source parameters) of major earthquakes in the European-Mediterranean region shall be done in about one month after their occurrences.

2. The results of the routine determination should be made available, by the EMSC Coordination Bureau, to all the EMSC members, the appropriate European and international authorities, and the data contributors shortly after the process is over.

3. Other tasks:

Other tasks of the key nodal members of EMSC are approved by the EMSC Assembly, on the advice of the Executive Council, according to the principal objectives as defined in Article II of the statutes.

ARTICLE X

The internal rules shall enter into force as soon as the Assembly has approved them by simple majority.