



September 14, 2009

33rd EARSeL General Assembly MINUTES

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Alysillon Agrokepion, 73100 Chania
17th June 2009, 11:30 – 12:30, Room H

AGENDA:

1. Annual Report by the EARSeL Chairman
2. Annual Report 2008 and Budget Proposal 2009 by the EARSeL Treasurer
3. Reports from Special Interest Groups
4. Proposals for future meetings
5. EARSeL General Assembly and Symposium in Paris 2010
6. EARSeL participation in research and educational projects
7. EARSeL publications
8. EARSeL Bureau Elections
9. Any other business

EARSeL Chairman Rudi Goossens welcomed those present, explaining that EARSeL as a legal organisation founded according to French law in Strasbourg is obliged to annually report on results, achievements, financial situation, and changes within the Association, asking for formal approval and release of board members from liability for management during the preceding year.

After introducing the agenda he then continued with agenda item 1:

1. Annual Report by the EARSeL Chairman

One of the most important EARSeL activities during the past year has been the 28th EARSeL Symposium “Remote Sensing for a Changing Europe” and 32nd General Assembly in Istanbul, June 2008. Two workshops were held back to back to the Symposium: 1st Workshop on Education and Training, and the 4th Workshop of the EARSeL Special Interest Group on Remote Sensing for Developing Countries “Integrating GIS and Remote Sensing in a Dynamic World” in conjunction with GISDECO 8.

These events attracted more than 250 people from all over Europe, from Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

In addition, following EARSeL events took place in 2008:

5th Workshop of the EARSeL Special Interest Group on Remote Sensing of Land Ice and Snow, 11-13 February 2008, Bern, Switzerland, organised by Dr. Stefan Wunderle, University of Bern.

“Remote Sensing – New Challenges of High Resolution”, 5-7 March 2008, Bochum, Germany, jointly organised by EARSeL SIG’s Urban Remote Sensing, 3D Remote Sensing, Developing Countries, Radar Remote Sensing, hosted by Prof. Dr. Carsten Jürgens, University of Bochum.

1st International Conference on Remote Sensing Techniques in Disaster Management and Emergency Response in the Mediterranean Region, 22-24 Sep. 2008, Zadar, Croatia, organised

by Prof. Dr. Marinko Oluic, Scientific Council for Remote Sensing of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

1st Workshop "Advances in Remote Sensing for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management", 1-4 October 2008, Rome, Italy, organised by Dr. Rosa Lasaponara, National Research Council, Italy

6th SIG IS Workshop: "Imaging Spectroscopy: An Innovative Tool for Scientific and Commercial Environmental Applications", 16-19 March 2009, Tel-Aviv, Israel, organised by Prof. Dr. Eyal Ben-Dor, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

This year's Symposium is accompanied again by two workshops: the 2nd Workshop on Education and Training, and the 4th Workshop on Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone, both organised by Dr. Rainer Reuter, University of Oldenburg, Germany.

This year, even participants from Australia are attending the 29th EARSeL Symposium in Chania.

The Chairman passed on to Dr. Ioannis Manakos, who is hosting the 29th EARSeL Symposium at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh). Mr. Manakos expressed his sincere thanks to the audience for contributing and participating in the event. He also thanked students and secretaries of MAICh for their very efficient and devoted assistance, and last but not least the various sponsors for their kind contributions and financial support.

2. Annual Report 2008 and Budget Proposal 2009 by the EARSeL Treasurer

Dr. Lena Halounová, EARSeL Treasurer presented incomes and expenditures in 2008. The financial year closed with an exceptionally positive result. Mainly, EARSeL relies on income from membership fees, this year 57.323,29 €. Another important aspect are workshops and symposia (79.932,83 €), as well as various sponsorships, e.g. ESA and UNESCO (~ 10.000 €) and small revenues from sales of EARSeL publications. The overall income in 2008 was 183,939.98 €. Expenditures cover costs for the secretariat including material and postage (28.424,67 €), and missions of Bureau members to Bureau and Council meetings at least twice per year (9.181,43 €). In addition, organisational costs of the various events must be paid (total 61.668,93 €), the EARSeL publications (32.025,32 €), as well as bank charges, rent of software and annual maintenance of the Conference Management System (total 1.037,26 €). Total expenditures have been 160.696,94 €. Thus, a positive result of 23.243,04 € was achieved.

The Chairman emphasized, that extra funds raised will be used to the benefit of EARSeL members, and asked for formal approval and release of EARSeL Bureau from responsibility.

The General Assembly approved, and granted discharge to the Bureau.

The Treasurer continued explaining the preliminary budget for the year 2009. Compared to 2008, this year's financial result will not come along quite as positively, because for the first time for many years the proceedings of two consecutive Symposia, namely Istanbul 2008 and Chania 2009 will have to be paid in one year.

The Chairman asked for approval and release.

The General Assembly approved, and granted discharge to the Bureau.

Following, the Chairman introduced the new applicants for EARSeL membership and informed the General Assembly of membership cancellations since the last General Assembly in Istanbul in 2008.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the applications for EARSeL membership.

3. Reports from Special Interest Groups

The Chairman briefly reported on upcoming Special Interest Group workshops:

- **SIG Education & Training** – Due to lively interest, resulting in more submitted contributions than originally expected the 2nd Workshop on Education and Training in Chania had to be extended by another day.
At least one session is planned for the 30th Symposium in Paris 2010.
- **SIG Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone** – Also, the 4th Workshop on Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone in Chania had to be extended. Another workshop will take place in Prague, 2011.
- **Advances in RS and GIS applications in Forest Fire Management, 2-5 September 2009, Matera, Italy**, organised by Dr. Rosa Lasaponara. Preparations are in progress. 53 abstracts were received.
- **3rd Workshop Land Use and Land Cover, 25-27 November 2009, Bonn, Germany**, organised by Dr. Matthias Braun, University of Bonn. Preparations are in progress. 124 abstracts have been received.

4. Proposals for future meetings

- **SIG Remote Sensing for Archaeology and Heritage** – Rosa Lasaponara suggested organising the 2nd Workshop on Remote Sensing for Archaeology back to back to the 2010 Symposium in Paris, possibly 1st week in June 2010.
- **2nd Joint Workshop** of EARSeL Special Interest Groups Urban Remote Sensing, Radar Remote Sensing, 3D Remote Sensing, Thermal Remote Sensing, and Developing Countries. The workshop will take place from 22-24 September 2010 in Gent, Belgium.
- **2nd Joint EARSeL/GISDECO** workshop on Remote Sensing for Developing Countries will take place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in September 2010.
- **31st Annual Symposium and General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 2011**

5. EARSeL General Assembly and Symposium in Paris, France, 2010

The Chairman gave the floor to Dr. Mario Hernandez, UNESCO, Paris, who will host the 30th Annual Symposium and 34th General Assembly at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in 2010. Mr. Hernandez briefly introduced the venue.

Details and dates of the Symposium will soon be announced.

6. EARSeL participation in research and educational projects

The Chairman passed on to Rainer Reuter who briefly reported on the successful work accomplished in the SEOS project, which is running under the umbrella of EARSeL. The project will end October 2009. He demonstrated the website, where results are available (see www.seos-project.eu) and asked the audience to check the website, informing him of eventual errors.

The project **Geoland2**, one of the GMES projects (EARSeL partner: Matthias Braun, Bonn, Germany), is now working. EARSeL disseminates results, thus enhancing EARSeL's visibility.

7. EARSeL Publications

EARSeL eProceedings

Volume 8 No. 1, 2009 is in preparation. EARSeL members are requested to use this peer-reviewed journal for publishing their scientific results. Each member should write one contribution every two years for publication in the EARSeL eProceedings.

EARSeL Book Series:

The Chairman explained that, since 2008, no paper versions of Symposium proceedings will be published any longer. Instead, the new EARSeL book series, published by Springer Scientific Publishers, came into life. In May 2009, the first volume “Satellite Radar Interferometry” by V.B.H. Ketelaar was sent to EARSeL members.

The next two volumes, Radar Remote Sensing in 2010 and Remote Sensing for Archaeology in 2011, are in preparation.

EARSeL Newsletter:

The Chairman called upon the General Assembly to contribute by regularly sending news from their laboratories, e.g. reports on projects, to the Newsletter editors.

EARSeL Website:

Presently, Dr. Lena Halounova is taking care of the website.

8. EARSeL Bureau elections

For reporting on this year’s elections of new Bureau members the Chairman gave the floor to Preben Gudmandsen, Honorary Chairman of EARSeL.

Mr. Gudmandsen remarked that ever since EARSeL’s inauguration he had taken initiatives for finding new Bureau members, having been very lucky to always find dedicated persons. Last year it was decided, to in future elect new Bureau members by voting in EARSeL Council. The Bureau received six candidatures for Bureau positions, including several from persons already active in the Bureau. During the Council meeting, held 15th June 2009, the candidates introduced themselves to Council. The Council then voted in a secret ballot.

Accordingly, from now on, the new EARSeL Bureau consists of:

Chairman:	Rainer Reuter, University of Oldenburg, Germany
Vice Chairman:	André Marçal, University of Porto, Portugal
Secretary General:	Lena Halounová, Czech Technical University of Prague, Czech Republic
Treasurer:	Ioannis Manakos, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Greece

The General Assembly approved the new EARSeL Bureau as elected by EARSeL Council.

Following, Preben Gudmandsen expressed his thanks to the outgoing Bureau members, especially to Rudi Goossens, outgoing Chairman, for his long-standing devotion to EARSeL.

Mario Hernandez, UNESCO, is acting as an ex officio Bureau member taking care of EARSeL’s international relations. On behalf of EARSeL, the outgoing Chairman expressed his thanks to Mario Hernandez for connecting EARSeL to other organisations dealing with remote sensing.

Rosa Lasaponara, SIG Chair Remote Sensing for Archaeology and Heritage, thankfully opted to take over from Ioannis Manakos as the new editor of the EARSeL Newsletter.

Next year, in 2010, new elections of the EARSeL Vice Chairman and the Secretary General will be necessary. Therefore, candidatures for these positions are needed and welcome.

9. Any other business

Concluding, Rudi Goossens emphasized, that it is EARSeL tradition for the outgoing Chairman to appoint a new EARSeL Honorary Member, who in this case should be Dr. Karsten Jacobsen, former Chair of Special Interest Group 3D Remote Sensing, from the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany. He thanked Mr. Jacobsen for his long and dedicated work for the Association.

Before closing the General Assembly, the outgoing Chairman expressed his thanks to the EARSeL community, to EARSeL Bureau, the Council and Special Interest Group Chairmen, for their support and cooperation awarded to him during his term of office as EARSeL Chairman.

The General Assembly closed at 12:35 h.