

## Summary of decisions made by the Technical Advisory Board of EAWS during the meeting in Munich (30 – 31 May 2016)

Organisational remark: From now on the working group calls itself the Technical Advisory Board (TAB). The TAB consists of several working groups tackling the topics given to the TAB by the General Assembly (GA) of EAWS.

14 participants of the TAB from 9 services have gathered in November 2015 and 23 participants of the TAB from 12 services have gathered in May 2016 in Munich. The goal is to prepare as efficiently as possible the decisions to be made by the forthcoming General Assembly to be held in Munich in mid-2017.

The TAB focuses its work on the three main items specified by the General Assembly in Rome in June 2015. At this stage, the TAB makes general recommendations on the orientation of the work, which are shared at this stage with the entire members of the EAWS for information and potential feedback. More information can be obtained from TAB members, under the coordination of Igor Chiambretti the TAB coordinator.

### **Avalanche Problems Topic**

- ⇒ *The TAB recommends to adopt “Avalanche Problems” in avalanche bulletins, although the use of Avalanche Problems is not compulsory in all bulletins, especially in the case of diffuse avalanche situations.*
- ⇒ *The TAB suggests to dismiss the “Favourable Situation” because of potential confusion and uncertain utility.*
- ⇒ *The TAB recommends that maximum two Avalanche Problems may be issued per bulletin, region or time step (daily bulletin vs. morning/afternoon situation). This includes a major and a secondary Avalanche Problem.*
- ⇒ *The TAB pointed out the need of a concise guideline linking typical avalanche conditions to the Avalanche Problem. This is necessary to assure harmonisation among forecasters (cp. decision tree for danger level).*
- ⇒ *The TAB recognizes that the naming of the Avalanche Problems may vary from language to language, but has to express the core meaning of the Avalanche Problem. We proceed with the term “Problem” instead of situation or pattern.*
- ⇒ *The TAB will produce the translations in at least German, French and Italian in autumn 2016*
- ⇒ *The TAB assigned the task of refining parts of the description of Avalanche Problems back to the Avalanche Problems working group.*
- ⇒ *No recommendation was taken concerning the mandatory use of a certain set of icons. Currently the icons delivered by the Austrian Avalanche Warning Services is more often used and prevalent. A coloured version of the Austrian icons will be made.*

## **Matrix, Avalanche Size Scale, Avalanche Danger Scale Definition Topic**

- ⇒ *The TAB agrees that the Matrix working group must tread the path of a gentle adaptation/solution for the matrix.*
  - ⇒ *Proposals towards an international system were made, but declared too radical / hasty for now. However, the TAB acknowledges that further investigations towards an internationally acceptable structure/system should be discussed during future TAB meetings.*
  - ⇒ *The TAB tasks the working group of finding proper definitions of the three variables (distribution of hazardous sites, avalanche size and snow pack stability) defining the danger level within the chosen graphical solution of the matrix (see latest version on OneDrive).*
  - ⇒ *The updated version should have a similar graphical solution as the current version of the matrix. Nevertheless the Matrix group will present three different styles of the updated matrix with identical content.*
  - ⇒ *The TAB tasks the Matrix working group of writing concise guidelines for the use of the updated matrix version.*
  - ⇒ *The new version will be available by the end of October 2016 for testing under operational conditions; a draft version will be available from mid-June 2016 on.*
  - ⇒ *The Matrix working group will develop an online survey tool to investigate strength/weak points of the updated version.*
  - ⇒ *Additionally, the Matrix working group will compose guidelines on how to file examples for documenting advantages/disadvantages of the new matrix in order to conduct a last revision in spring 2017.*
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## **EAWS Regulations Topic**

- ⇒ *The TAB strongly recommends choosing the path of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between all various warning services to be signed by all services currently informal members of EAWS*
- ⇒ *The TAB concludes that if a member of the TAB is unsatisfied with the voting right of one nation, one vote, it should propose a second way of voting which then will be discussed within the Regulations working group. The proposal must be given until the end of June.*
- ⇒ *A final draft of the MoU must be ready latest in September 2016; this draft will be circulated among all avalanche warning services (national and regional entities) and should be signed by all members before the GA in Munich 2017. The meaning of this signature is consultative, meaning "I support this document and recommend to accept it". The signature by law is only possible after the voting and acceptance by the GA. In this way we*

*assure an efficient decision-making for the two other major topics currently elaborated within the TAB.*

- ⇒ TAB agrees that non-members of EAWS may participate as observers during the various meetings, however would not have any decision nor voting right.*
  - ⇒ The TAB concludes that the EAWS standards / best-practices in ANNEX A will be differentiated into mandatory and voluntary. Members of EAWS must incorporate all mandatory standards within their operations. By signing the MoU they agree on that.*
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### **Final remarks and miscellaneous**

- ⇒ Majority of the TAB prefers the next EAWS GA in June or September 2017 with a final TAB meeting in Munich at the beginning of May.*
- ⇒ All members of the GA are invited to already think / prepare proposals for future topics, which must be handled by the TAB.*