Summary 19th EAWS General Assembly 2017, Tutzing, Germany

Decisions taken by the General Assembly (GA) on 13th June:

- The *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) was signed by 29 avalanche warning services from 16 countries. Other avalanche warning services may apply for membership to the Membership Committee (membership.committee@avalanches.org). The main standards of the EAWS are listed in MoU Appendix A, published and updated on www.avalanches.org. The GA is the supreme governing body of the EAWS and decisions are taken with a qualified two-thirds majority. Each country has the same number of votes. Votes are divided between members within each country according to MoU Appendix B.

- The Working groups presented their recommendations. The GA decided to:
  1. Establish *five standard avalanche problems* to be used in the avalanche bulletin.
  2. Change the *names (designations) of the five avalanche size classes*, to be implemented prior to the 2018-2019 season (guidelines are due autumn 2017).
  3. Include the avalanche size in the human-triggered part of the existing "Bavarian Matrix", and rename the matrix to the "*EAWS Matrix*".

- The GA decided that the
  1. Next (*20th) GA* will be in Norway in 2019, hosted by the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE).
  2. New *Chair Person* of the EAWS is Rune Engeset (NVE, NO).
  3. New *Coordinator* of the EAWS is Thomi Stucki (SLF, CH).

- The GA decided that the *Technical Advisory Board (TAB)* will have the following eight members: Arno Studeregger (AUS), Samuel Morin (FR), Karsten Müller (NOR), Fabiano Monti (IT), Christoph Mitterer (AUS), Beni Zweifel (CH), Marek Biskupič (SK) and Mark Diggins (GB).

- The GA decided to establish three new Working Groups:
  1. *Improving the matrix and danger scale;* the goal is to define the key terms used in the matrix and danger scale, to revise the "spontaneous avalanches"-part of the matrix and to evaluate/improve weaknesses of the avalanche danger scale.
  2. *Best practices in regional forecasting;* the goal is to review and describe best practices in observations, analysis, modeling and training.
  3. *Best practices in local forecasting;* the goal is to review and describe best practices in local (also known as slope-scale or object-based) forecasting.

- The GA decided that the Membership Committee consists of Jürg Schweizer (CH), Gloria Marti (ES), Igor Chiambretti (IT), Aleš Poredoš (SLO) and Rudi Mair (AUS).

- The GA thanks the EAWS Chair Person, Hans Konetschny, and EAWS Coordinator, Igor Chiambretti, for effective management of the EAWS during the past years. The GA thanks the 2017 GA organizer, Bavarian Avalanche Warning Service, for hosting the GA.

Summary of the panel discussion on 14th June:

- Avalanche bulletins published in the afternoon for the following day are preferable compared to morning bulletins.
- The users were in happy with the technical details and content of the bulletins, but called for two major improvements to be addressed by EAWS:
  - All publish public bulletins should be available in English, not only local language.
  - It should be easy to find the right bulletin based on a standard location name search.

- EAWS recommends that all avalanche warning services publish public bulletins in English and improve their bulletin location search. EAWS will look into a common location search and improving the EAWS homepage.