ECMAF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT **2015**



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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MEDIUM-RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS BOARD OF AUDIT

Audit opinion on the Financial Statement of Accounts (FSA) for the Financial Year 2015 (FY15)

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) was established by a Convention that entered into force on 1 November 1975. ECMWF is an independent international organisation supported by 22 Member States and 12 Co-operating States.

According to Article 2(2) of the ECMWF Convention, the principal objectives of the Centre are:

- development and operation of global models and data-assimilation systems for the dynamics, thermodynamics and composition of the Earth's fluid envelope and interacting parts of the Earth-system, with a view to:
 - preparing forecasts by means of numerical methods;
 - providing initial conditions for the forecasts; and
 - contributing to monitoring the relevant parts of the Earth-system;
- carrying out scientific and technical research directed towards improving the quality of these forecasts;
- collection and storage of appropriate data.

The organs of ECMWF are the Council and the Director-General; six Committees assist the organs. As at 31 December 2015 ECMWF employed 300 staff members and 5 consultants (2014:263 staff and 8 consultants) and paid 111 pensioners (2014: 102 pensioners).

Financial information

Following the schedules presented by the Centre for the FY15, the total revenue amounted to \pounds 67.4m¹ (2014: \pounds 61.3m) and expenditure totalled \pounds 68.3m¹ (2014: \pounds 59.5m), giving a 2015 operating deficit of \pounds 1.0m¹ (2014: \pounds 1.8m surplus). Expenditure (including Centre tax) for personnel and pensioners represented \pounds 32.8m (2014: \pounds 29.8m), or 48% (2014: 50%) of total expenditure, and computer expenses \pounds 18.4m (2014: \pounds 15.1m), or 27% (2014: 25%), of the 2015 total expenditure.

¹ All 2015 figures quoted in this report are taken from accounts prepared under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

The audit of ECMWF's FSA

1. As auditors appointed by the Council of ECMWF, we have examined ECMWF's FSA for FY15. The audit was completed as stipulated in Article 14 of the Convention establishing ECMWF and in accordance with the conditions laid down in Chapter IV of the Financial Regulations. Article 43 of the Financial Regulations defines the purpose of the audit.

The preparation of the FSA and the organisation of adequate and sound internal control procedures are the entire responsibility of ECMWF's management. The Director-General is responsible for putting in place the organisational structure and the internal management and control systems and procedures relevant for drawing up final accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for ensuring that the transactions underlying those accounts are legal and regular.

The purpose of the audit is to ascertain that all budgeted revenues have been received and properly recorded, and that all expenditure has been incurred in a lawful and regular manner. Pursuant the IFAC International Standards on Auditing and Codes of Ethics and the INTOSAI International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions, the auditors performed the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the annual financial statement of the Centre are free of material misstatement, presents fairly, in all material respects, ECMWF's financial position and that all the 2015 underlying transactions are legal and regular and were completed, recorded and disclosed in compliance with ECMWF's Financial Rules and Regulations.

The audit approach taken by the auditors comprises analytical audit procedures, direct substantive testing of transactions and an assessment of controls and control systems. This is supplemented by evidence provided by the report issued by the International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (SiRP) and an analysis of management representations.

The audit report does not contain any statement about the scientific performance of ECMWF. It was not the specific objective of this audit to detect any irregularities or fraud cases.

During the audit, ECMWF agreed to modify the draft FSA and schedules attached thereon so as to present certain financial information in more detail or to comply with usual accounting assertions.

The Auditors continued the examination of the implementation of IPSAS Standards to ensure that the presentation of the financial statements, accounting of assets, compliance with accruals and disclosure of pensions and benefits are compliant with applicable standards. They also reviewed the status of the previous audit observations.

This audit opinion is addressed to the Finance Committee and to the Council in accordance with Article 14(1), of the Convention establishing the Centre and revised Article 46(3) of the Centre's Financial Regulations, *"in accordance with the work programmes of the Finance Committee and the Council"*. The auditors confirm that they obtained all information and assistance needed for the audit.

- 2. The financial statements comprise:
 - The statement of Financial Position;
 - The statement of Financial Performance;
 - The statement of Cash Flow;
 - Notes and schedule to the Financial Statements.

A letter of representation was issued by the Director-General.

For the year ended 31 December 2015, the total assets represented £84.3m, with net liabilities of £126.6m. Total operating expenditure was £68.3m, with an operating deficit of £1.0m. After net finance costs of £6.4m this resulted in a net deficit of £7.4m.

3. The auditors consider that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the opinion set out below, and sufficient assurance that the financial statements are free from non-tolerable errors.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at 31 December 2015, for the year then ended, in accordance with the Centre's Financial Regulations.

The auditors also issued audit observations having no impact on the audit opinion, whose recommendations could improve the financial and administrative management of the Centre.

These observations are presented below.

Audit observations addressed to Council

1. Previous observations

Although the auditors obtained sufficient assurance that, in all material respects, underlying transactions were completed, recorded and disclosed in compliance with the budgetary authorisations and with Council and Finance Committee decisions, they consider that some of previous audit observations remain valid, although some progress has been accomplished in respect of the settlement of the auditors' recommendations.

2. Introduction of IPSAS

The introduction of IPSAS had the major impact on the following matters:

- The presentation of the annual financial statements;
- The accounting method for assets;
- The presentation of transactions in accruals and not in cash;
- The reporting of pension liabilities;

The auditors would like to bring to the attention of the Council, the effects of the assumptions on the calculation of pension liabilities in the accounts.

Pensions

The International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (iSRP) presented a report, dated 1 February 2016, on "2015 Year End Accounting of the Pension and Medical Coverage Obligations".

The auditors consider that the actuarial value of accrued Centre's liabilities was based on comprehensive data of the staff in service and present pensioners at the end of 2015, and calculated in compliance with IPSAS 25 "Employees benefits".

The auditors noted especially that:

- The pension liability have been calculated on the basis of the last salary scale each of the Centre's employees could obtain at the end of his/her career.
- The future real salary increase was considered to assess the Centre's obligations, and is expected to be 0.27% in real terms (above inflation).
- The liabilities as reported in the financial statements represent the actuarial value of pension and medical coverage, as it exists at the end of 2015. Each period of service after the end of 2015 for present employees will give rise to an additional unit of benefits; the cost of the accrued liabilities due to one year of service for present employees is evaluated as £9.4m for 2015 (£8.9m for 2014).
- The liabilities have been calculated on the basis of present pension regulations for the calculation of retirement pensions, as applicable to Centre's staff; any changes, like age of

retirement, number of recognised working years, changes to the last salary or an average of career salary could seriously affect the Centre's liabilities;

- In the report, it was highlighted that:
 - The medical cost assumptions have been updated for the 2015 years end exercise. In order to do this, the medical claims for the pensioners and their beneficiaries have been taken into account, for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015. This update has increased the medical benefit liabilities.
 - There are a series of assumptions specific to the healthcare plan. One of them is the medical inflation. The ECMWF had used an assumption of medical inflation of 2% above UK inflation. Therefore, with an inflation assumption of 1.93%, the medical inflation assumptions comes to 3.93%.
 - The calculation of the medical obligation was revised based on the medical costs claimed by the pensioners and their dependants' from 2013 to 2015. The impact of this change is included in the calculation of the liability.
 - In 2015 there were 18 people hiring for the Copernicus project, whose contract may only be valid for a maximum of 7 years. They are considered as any other employee and the final liability assuming that their maximum length of contract is 7 years (therefore no possibility of acquiring pension rights).
- Variations of value of discount rate and cost of price increases have a weighty impact on the Centre's liabilities. For 2015, the revised discount rate was 3.77% (3.52 % in 2014, 4.71% in 2013) which resulted in an actuarial gain of £12.2m (2014: loss of £27.3m).
- The auditors consider that the Financial Statements in respect of future pension and medical care present the Centre's liabilities in compliance with IPSAS. However, the present and future financial position of the Centre largely depends on exogenous and endogenous assumptions, but also on present pension and medical care regulations.

Recommendation:

- The auditors therefore recommend that the Centre regularly examines the impact of amendment of the assertions and presents to Council the outcome of variation or modification affecting these parameters, based on models and documentary evidence.
- The Council should also kept informed about prospective evolution of pension strategic policy.

Reading, 5 April 2016

Signed by the Board of Auditors

Director-General's Statement

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is an intergovernmental organisation whose primary purposes are the development of a capability for medium-range weather forecasting and the provision of medium-range weather forecasts to its Member and Co-operating States. ECMWF is supported by 34 States.

An amended Convention was entered into force on 6 June 2010, allowing new Member States to join ECMWF. Several Co-operating States have started the procedure to become a Member State, one of which is Croatia whose conversion came into effect from 1 January 2016.

This document contains the financial statements of ECMWF for the year ending 31 December 2015. It details the 2015 financial results, reconciliation of results between IPSAS and cash accounting and the auditors' opinion.

In 2015, under IPSAS, the Centre produced an operating deficit of £0.95m. However, when the net finance costs are taken into account, the Centre had a net accounting deficit for the period of £7.4m.

For the year 2015, the main sources of revenue for ECMWF were contributions from Member and Cooperating States (£42.4m), externally funded revenue for projects and activities (£12.8m) and sales of forecasts and data (£4.7m). The Centre operates an internal tax system which deducts tax from the grossed-up value of staff salaries. This amounted to £7.5m in 2015 and is also included in the Centre's revenues. This grossed-up amount is shown in personnel costs. The main items of expenditure in 2015 were remuneration and related items (£26.0m; £20.3m net of internal tax), pension and post-employment benefits (£6.8m), computer expenses (£18.4m), buildings (£3.4m), externally funded research projects and programmes (£10.1m; £8.4m net of internal tax) and net finance costs (£6.4m). ECMWF continued to invest in its staff, high-performance computing facilities, communications network and quality management system (ISO 9001) in order to provide the highest quality products to its Member and Co-operating States.

In order to comply with IPSAS 25, the Statement of Financial Position includes as a liability, the present value of £187.5m (2014: £181.3m) of any future pension and post-employment medical costs as calculated by the Centre's actuaries. The actuarial gain for 2015 is £4.3m.

On the 11th November 2014, ECMWF signed a delegation agreement with the European Commission for the operation of Copernicus Climate Change Services and Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Services. The operational activities gained momentum in 2015 and included the recruitment of personnel and the rental of additional premises at the University of Reading to accommodate these extra staff. There was an increase in procurement activity relating to the awarding of contracts to third parties.

ECMWF's budget is still set on a cash basis and the Financial Statements include a reconciliation of the results under IPSAS and in cash terms. Under cash accounting, I am pleased to say that the Centre generated a surplus of £0.6m in 2015, which is available either for future investment or distribution to Member States according to a decision to be made by the Council in 2016.

Florence Rabier Director-General

This Statement represents my assurance to Council that, as Director-General, I am satisfied that the Centre's finances are adequately controlled.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) ensures an appropriate control environment is in place by clearly defining management responsibilities and powers, evaluating the systems in place to ensure compliance with those policies, plans, procedures, laws and regulations which could have significant impact on the organisation, formally monitoring progress against objectives and risk exposure relating to achievement of objectives and making informed decisions if necessary to steer performance back on track, keeping proper records, and safeguarding the assets of the organisation.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. It includes a comprehensive zero-based, bottom-up annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Council, and regular reviews by the SMT of quarterly Management Information Reports and annual financial reports which indicate performance against key financial and non-financial objectives.

ECMWF has a co-sourced internal audit function, which reports directly to the Audit Committee. This committee meets on a biannual basis to review reports prepared by Internal Audit and other departments. The head of Internal Audit in turn keeps the Audit Committee informed of the matters that have been considered, and day-to-day operations are reported to the Director-General.

The internal audit function operates in accordance with the "International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing". An Internal Audit plan is approved by the Audit Committee. The work plan takes account of areas of potential risk identified.

The Internal Auditor provides the Audit Committee with biannual reports on assignments carried out. These reports highlight deficiencies or weaknesses, if any, in the system of internal financial control and the recommended corrective measures to be taken where necessary.

The SMT's monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the Internal Audit function and by the work of the Audit Committee.

I confirm that, in respect of the year ended 31 December 2015, the internal audit function conducted a review of the system of internal financial control in accordance with the Internal Audit plan for 2015.

Florence Rabier Director-General

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015	2014
		£	£
Revenue			
Member & Co-operating States' contributions		42,401,431	41,997,226
Taxes		7,455,124	6,826,676
Externally funded revenue		12,770,863	7,700,277
Sales of forecasts and data		4,721,544	4,747,515
Other operating revenue		30,257	19,471
Total Operating revenue	_	67,379,219	61,291,165
Expenditure			
Personnel costs ^{1,3}	15	25,986,915	24,223,108
Pension and post-employment benefits	12 & 15	6,834,382	5,547,190
Buildings expenditure	15	3,370,137	3,846,753
Computer expenditure	15	18,411,390	15,085,970
Other operating expenditure	15	3,632,830	3,283,488
Externally funded expenditure ^{1, 2}	15	10,094,819	7,524,036
Total operating expenditure	_	68,330,473	59,510,545
Operating surplus for the year from continuing	operations	(951,254)	1,780,620
Finance income	16	137,849	110,477
Finance costs	16	(6,582,578)	(4,969,264)
Net deficits for the year from continuing operat		(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Net deficit for the year		(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)

¹ These items of expenditure are inclusive of tax

² Externally funded expenditure includes optional programmes

³ Personnel costs exclude staff whose posts are fully or partially directly externally funded. These costs are included in externally funded expenditure

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015	2014
		£	£
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	20,998,862	10,616,960
Receivables	5	6,706,811	7,876,765
Prepayments and accrued revenue	6	7,405,645	8,650,812
Inventory	7	240,445	297,266
Total current assets		35,351,763	27,441,803
Non current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	17,307,419	17,842,496
Pension investment accounts	12	31,671,085	27,745,377
Total non current assets		48,978,504	45,587,873
TOTAL ASSETS		84,330,267	73,029,676
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	7,475,891	4,828,887
Prefinancing	10	15,100,737	9,781,967
Deferred revenue	11	919,358	655,099
Total current liabilities		23,495,986	15,265,953
Non current liabilities			
Employee benefits	12	187,466,564	181,293,304
Total non current liabilities		187,466,564	181,293,304
TOTAL LIABILITIES		210,962,550	196,559,257
NET LIABILITIES		(126,632,283)	(123,529,581)
NET ASSETS / (EQUITY)			
General Reserve	13	2,394,996	2,394,996
Retained surpluses		(3,886,350)	(808,183)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Actuarial adjustments		(26,396,091)	(30,689,372)
IPSAS adjustment reserve	14	(91,348,855)	(91,348,855)
TOTAL NET LIABILITIES		(126,632,283)	(123,529,581)

Statement of Cash Flow for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Depreciation	2,835,175	2,456,830
Profit/(loss) on disposal of fixed assets	2,309	-
Finance costs for post-employment benefit (note 12)	6,311,896	4,681,134
Post-employment benefit	228,937	(555,550)
Decrease in receivables	1,169,954	(2,222,334)
Decrease in inventories	56,821	(80,605)
Decrease in prepayments and accrued income	1,245,167	724,712
Increase in payables	2,647,004	(1,823,901)
Increase in pre-financing	5,318,770	5,884,052
Increase in deferred revenue	264,259	103,514
Net cash flow from operating activities	12,684,309	6,089,685
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,302,407)	(2,261,279)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(2,302,407)	(2,261,279)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10,381,902	3,828,406
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	10,616,960	6,788,554
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20,998,862	10,616,960

Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity for the year ended 31 December 2015

	General reserve	Retained surplus	Actuarial adjustments	Reserves arising on IPSAS adjustments	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 31 December 2014	2,394,996	(3,886,350)	(30,689,372)	(91,348,855)	(123,529,581)
Deficit arising on recognition of employee benefit obligation for 2015			4,293,281		4,293,281
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		(7,395,983)			(7,395,983)
Balance as at 31 December 2015	2,394,996	(11,282,333)	(26,396,091)	(91,348,855)	(126,632,283)

1. Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

ECMWF elected to adopt International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) from 1 January 2012. On 11th November 2014, ECMWF signed a Delegation Agreement with the European Commission for provision of Copernicus services. Consequently, ECMWF introduced segmental accounts in 2014, in line with IPSAS 18 in order to separately identify the various streams of income and expenditure relating to Copernicus Services, as this is regarded as a significant segment of activity. For consistency purposes all externally funded streams of revenue and corresponding costs have also been separated by segment.

2. Accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of ECMWF's significant accounting policies, which are described in note 3, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the estimate affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key judgements management has made in preparing these financial statements are as follows:-

- a) Estimated useful lives and depreciation rates of property, plant and equipment.
- Actuarial assumptions in respect of the defined benefit pension and post- employment medical care schemes; and
- c) Assessment of contract progression at the year-end date.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with and comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), based on International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

When the IPSASB does not prescribe any specific standard, IFRS and IAS are applied.

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical-cost and going-concern basis and accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis.

3. Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies are set out below:

Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency, sterling, at the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. Foreign currency transactions within the Sterling ledgers are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. The addition of Copernicus services has led to the implementation of a Euro ledger in order to minimise unnecessary impact of foreign currency transactions. For reporting purposes, the transactions within the Euro ledger are translated at the average foreign exchange rate per month. Exchange gains and losses resulting from settlement of such transactions and from retranslation at the reporting date of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Member and Co-operating States' contributions and contributions to optional programmes are payable in sterling. Revenue from Externally Funded Projects, Third Party Activities (including Copernicus), Sales of Forecasts and Data and other operating revenue is received in a number of currencies, principally euro.

Tangible Assets

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the assets.

Where an asset (other than land and buildings) is acquired in a non-exchange transaction for a nil or nominal consideration the asset is initially recognised at fair value, where fair value can be reliably determined and as income in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying value or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to ECMWF and the cost of the item can be reliably measured. The carrying amount of a replaced item is derecognised. All repair and maintenance expenditure is charged to the Statement of Financial Performance during the financial period in which it is incurred.

Depreciation on assets is charged so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual value, other than land, over their estimated useful economic lives, using the straight line method on the following basis:

- Building improvements 15 50 years
- Fixtures and fittings 5 10 years
- Technical equipment 5 10 years
- Mechanical equipment 5 10 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

The carrying values of tangible assets are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset will be estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Any provision for impairment is charged to the Statement of Financial Performance.

ECMWF occupies land and buildings provided by the Government of the United Kingdom (UK Government) at no cost under a Headquarters Agreement dated 11 October 1973 and amended 11 July 1997. In June 1999 the terms of the agreement were extended for a further 20 years.

The UK Government has sole title to the original land and buildings and under the terms of the agreement has responsibility for the maintenance of the exterior of the buildings with ECMWF responsible for the maintenance of the interior of the buildings. ECMWF has therefore, not recognised any value of these buildings in the Statement of Financial Position.

ECMWF have built extensions to the existing buildings, financed by Member States' and Co-operating States' contributions. The Headquarters Agreement provides for the payment of a sum equivalent to the difference between the value of the premises with any new additions and new buildings and the value of the premises without the same at the end of the term of occupation. Therefore, depreciation on building improvements is based upon residual (estimated) values when the current Headquarters Agreement expires in 2019.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value on a first in first out (FIFO) basis. Cost comprises all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less the estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution for those asset items that may be sold to third parties. These inventories relate to the stock of unused tapes which will form part of the Centre's data archive and which, once used, are expensed in the Statement of Financial performance.

Receivables

Receivables are stated at their nominal value as reduced by appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts. No allowances are made for loss with regard to contributions receivable from Member and Co-operating States, except for exceptional and/or technical reasons sanctioned by the Council. For all other receivables, an allowance for irrecoverable amounts will be based on a review of outstanding amounts at the reporting date.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and cash at bank and term deposits.

Provisions

Provisions exist when a liability arising from a past event exists, for which it is probable that an economic outflow will occur. Provisions are calculated using the management's best estimation of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Employee benefits/pension obligations

ECMWF operates two defined-benefit pension schemes and a post-employment medical care scheme. The International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (ISRP), in its capacity as the Centre's actuary, performs annual calculations of liabilities for the defined benefit and post-employment medical care schemes, which are recognised in the financial statements.

The annual actuarial valuations are carried out using the Projected Unit Credit Method, which attributes an additional unit of benefit entitlement for each period of service. Each unit is measured separately until the final obligation is constituted.

ECMWF's employee benefit obligations are partially funded by assets held separately and are distinct from all other assets of ECMWF. Historically, the cost of pensions was provided for each year on a pay-as-you-go basis, in common with many public sector bodies across Europe. However, since 2011, the Centre has set aside funds each year to cover the full cost of its pension obligations for that year as determined by its actuaries, as well as over £1.0m in additional funds to reduce its overall long-term liability. The remainder of benefit is supported by Member States' obligations under the ECMWF convention.

Actuarial gains and losses are accounted for in compliance with IPSAS 25 and are recognised in the period during which they occur. They are recognised as a separate item directly in the Net Assets/Equity as per IPSAS 25.

Revenue recognition

ECMWF has several sources of revenue, which are accounted for as follows:

- Member and Co-operating States' contributions:
 Member and Co-operating States' contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.
- (b) Other income from Member and Co-operating States:
 Other income from Member and Co-operating States is recognised in the period to which it relates. This includes income from Optional Programmes.
- Income from Sales of Forecast and Data:
 Income from the sales of forecasts and data is recognised in the period to which the revenues relate.
- Income from Externally Funded Projects (EFP) and Third Party Activities (TPA) excluding Copernicus (COP):
 Income from Externally Funded Projects is recognised in line with contractual arrangements. For contracts spanning more than one accounting/reporting period, income is recognised on the basis of costs incurred in the period plus associated contracted mark-up.
- Income from Third Party Activities: Copernicus (COP):
 Income from Copernicus Third Party Activity is recognised in line with the signed Delegation Agreement.
 Income related to industrial activities is recognised on the basis of associated direct costs incurred in the period, and fee income in line with that agreed in the Delegation Agreement.

Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are included in fixed assets at the total of the lease payments due over the life of the lease discounted at the rate of interest inherent in the lease. Lease payments are apportioned between the finance element, which is charged in the Statement of Financial Performance, and the capital element, which reduces the lease creditor. ECMWF did not have any finance leases in the period.

Leases in which a significant proportion of the risks and rewards are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Operating lease rentals are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance on the basis at which value is received by the organisation.

Should ECMWF invoke a liquidated damages clause in a contract, the costs of the lease for the period are reduced by the amount receivable/received.

Financial risk management

ECMWF seeks to minimise its exposure to financial risk and has developed risk-management strategies in accordance with its Financial Regulations. ECMWF is exposed to a variety of financial risks, including foreign exchange, interest rate, liquidity and credit risks. ECMWF does not make use of financial derivatives to hedge foreign exchange risk exposures.

(a) Foreign exchange risk

ECMWF receives income from Externally Funded Projects, Sales of Forecast and Data and third party activities in currencies other than sterling and is, therefore, exposed to foreign exchange risks arising from fluctuations in currency rates.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from settlement, or translation of year end monetary balances denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented within other finance costs in the Statement of Financial performance.

The delegation agreement signed with the European Commission for the provision of Copernicus Services is agreed in Euro. In order to minimise foreign exchange risk, all third party procurements agreed with be denoted in Euro and this will account for just over 70% of the total project income over the seven year period. Furthermore costs incurred by ECMWF will be reimbursed on a regular basis to minimise large fluctuations on foreign exchange rates between the date incurred and the date reimbursed.

(b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the impact of changes in the interest rates on the value of financial assets and obligations. ECMWF's exposure to interest rate risk is limited to the interest receivable on its bank deposits, pension assets and Member and Co-operating States' contributions.

(c) Liquidity risk

ECMWF's Financial Regulations permit it to utilise bank credit facilities in case of liquidity requirements.

(d) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge on obligations and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. ECMWF is exposed to credit risk in its accounts receivable.

ECMWF has limited credit risk as its exposure is principally to sovereign states, the European Union and other international organisations.

4. Cash and cash equivalents	2015	2014
	£	£
Cash in hand	10,257	10,991
Current accounts	1,135,368	1,142,006
Deposit accounts	5,401,273	2,154,416
Project bank accounts	1,618,601	154
Third Party activity bank account*	12,833,363	7,309,393
	20,998,862	10,616,960

*Cash received in advance from the European Commission for Copernicus Services

5. Receivables*	2015	2014
	£	£
Member States' debtors; contributions	68,867	763,666
Co-operating States' debtors; contributions	193,363	13,184
Member States' debtors; other items	878,014	1,048,263
Co-operating States' debtors; other items	13,852	2,425
Sales of forecast and data debtors	464,088	498,262
VAT and other taxes	3,391,334	2,699,711
External project funding receivables	1,677,377	2,631,365
Miscellaneous receivables	19,916	219,889
	6,706,811	7,876,765

*Receivables shown are net of debt provision

6. Prepayments and accrued revenue	2015	2014
	£	£
HPC prepaid expense	5,651,250	7,706,250
Other prepaid expenses	1,754,395	939,500
Accrued revenue; forecasts and data	-	5,062
	7,405,645	8,650,812

7. Inventories	2015	2014
	£	£
Blank archive data media	240,445	297,266
	240,445	297,266

8. Property Plant & Equipme	ent			
	Land £	Building Improvements £	Infrastructure, Plant & Machinery £	2015 £
Cost				
At 1 January 2015	750,000	7,685,173	25,534,725	33,969,898
Additions			2,302,407	2,302,407
Adjustments*			212,764	212,764
Disposals			(900,456)	(900,456)
At 31 December 2015	750,000	7,685,173	27,149,440	35,584,613
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2015	-	1,608,508	14,518,894	16,127,402
Disposals			(898,147)	(898,147)
Charge for the period		196,807	2,638,368	2,835,175
Adjustments*			212,764	212,764
At 31 December 2015	-	1,805,315	16,471,879	18,277,194
Net book value				
At 1 January 2015	750,000	6,076,665	11,015,831	17,842,496
At 31 December 2015	750,000	5,879,858	10,677,561	17,307,419

*In order to reflect the most accurate valuation of assets, adjustments were required to the cost or valuation of gross assets at 1 January 2014, and to the accumulated depreciation at 1 January 2014, to include the addition of older IT software and hardware to reflect their historical disposal on the asset register, which had not been physically processed.

9. Payables	2015	2014
	£	£
Suppliers and accrued charges	2,907,560	803,253
Co-operating States' debtors	-	18,787
Members States' Fund	3,976,479	3,330,243
Provisions	440,864	432,102
Other payables	150,988	244,502
	7,475,891	4,828,887

10. Prefinancing	2015	2014
	£	£
External project funding received in advance	3,338,230	2,538,902
Externally funded projects - coordinator account	1,619,139	-
Third Party Copernicus funding received in advance*	10,143,368	7,243,065
	15,100,737	9,781,967

*relates to pre-finance monies received from European Commission for

provision of Copernicus Services, net of invoices raised but not yet paid for 2015 Quarter 4

11. Deferred revenue	2015	2014
	£	£
Deferred revenue; sales of forecasts and data	919,358	655,099
	919,358	655,099

12. Employee benefits

Defined-benefit schemes

At 31 December 2015, the main actuarial assumptions used to calculate the defined-benefit liability (expressed as weighted averages) were:

	Pension benefits	Post- employment medical care	
	%	%	
Discount rates	3.77	3.83	
Future salary increases	2.20	0.00	
Future pension scheme increases	2.20	0.00	
Medical costs inflation	0.00	3.91	

	Pension benefits	Post- employment medical care	Total
	£	£	£
Present value of obligation at 01/01/2015	176,009,169	5,284,135	181,293,304
Interest cost	6,195,522	181,774	6,377,296
Current service cost	8,898,502	262,303	9,160,805
Benefits paid	(4,734,842)	(336,718)	(5,071,560)
Actuarial (gains)/ losses on obligation	(12,256,275)	7,962,994	(4,293,281)
Net liability recognised in Statement of Financial Position	174,112,076	13,354,488	187,466,564
Movement in Pension Investment Accounts			2015

Movement in Pension Investment Accounts	2015
	£
Opening value of investment account at 01/01/2015	27,745,377
Return on investment during the period	65,400
Contributions by employer during the period	6,434,654
Contributions by staff & validation of pension rights during the period	2,160,496
Benefits paid during the period	(4,734,842)
Net asset recognised in Statement of Financial Position at 31/12/2015	31,671,085

12. Employee benefits (continued)

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance are as follows:

	Pension benefits	Post- employment medical care	Total
Pension and post-employment benefits	£	£	£
Current service cost	8,898,502	262,303	9,160,805
Staff contributions	(1,992,942)		(1,992,942)
Validation of pension rights	(167,554)		(167,554)
Benefits paid		(336,718)	(336,718)
Insurance premium paid		170,791	170,791
	6,738,006	96,376	6,834,382
Finance costs for post-employment benefit			
Interest on obligation	6,195,522	181,774	6,377,296
Increase in value of scheme assets in the year	(65,400)		(65,400)
	6,130,122	181,774	6,311,896

Current service cost is the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from employee services in the current period.

Interest on obligation is the increase during the period in the present value of the defined-benefit obligation which arises because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

In 2015, 18 people were hired specifically for the Copernicus contract, and will therefore have a maximum contract length of 7 years with no possibility of acquiring pension rights. These staff have been considered as any other employee for the purposes of calculating the pension liability.

Additionally, the medical cost assumptions have been updated for the 2015 calculations, which has resulted in an increased medical benefit liability.

13. General Reserve		
	Opening Balance	Closing Balance
	£	£
General Reserve	2,394,996	2,394,996

14. IPSAS adjustment reserve	
	2012
The surplus arising from IPSAS adjustments are analysed as follows:	£
Net book value of infrastructure, plant and machinery at 1 January 2012	9,497,464
Net book value of land and buildings at 1 January 2012	7,439,160
	16,936,624
Net book value of inventories at 1 January 2012	530,430
Provision for leave not taken at 1 January 2012	(355,612)
Net employee benefits at 1 January 2012	(108,460,297)
	(91,348,855)

15. Expenditure	2015	2014
	£	£
Personnel costs	-	~
Salaries and benefits	19,111,170	17,926,879
Other personnel costs (incl. training)	1,165,259	924,329
Taxes	5,710,486	5,371,900
Total personnel costs	25,986,915	24,223,108
Total pension and post-employment benefits	6,834,382	5,547,190
Buildings expenditure		
Installations and alterations	40,839	327,828
Rental and local taxes	26,599	20,506
Water, gas and electricity	2,749,869	3,006,397
Maintenance, cleaning and security	552,830	492,022
Total buildings expenditure	3,370,137	3,846,753
Computer expenditure		
Purchases	6,383	133,668
Hiring and leasing	12,436,064	9,681,644
Maintenance and repair	4,089,209	3,386,982
Delivery and installation	15,840	18,772
Supplies - computer and associated equipment	766,644	654,874
Telecommunications network	1,097,250	1,210,030
Total computer expenditure	18,411,390	15,085,970
	10,411,000	13,003,370
Other operating expenditure		
Furniture and equipment	41,149	46,278
Stationery, supplies, etc.	63,671	62,095
Postal, delivery, comms, etc.	57,503	56,409
Miscellaneous insurances	161,898	161,067
Publications and training	279,698	142,469
Governing bodies	46,100	94,594
Expert fees	23,706	28,005
Depreciation	2,835,175	2,456,830
Bad debt provision	77,625	142,922
Other expenditure	46,305	92,819
Total other operating expenditure	3,632,830	3,283,488
Externally Funded Projects	3,139,493	5,388,207
Externally Funded Projects tax	846,872	1,300,193
Optional Programmes	107,522	76,526
Optional Programmes tax	55,607	42,421
Third Party Activities	565,182	479,090
Third Party Activities tax	149,006	94,876
Copernicus	4,537,983	125,437
Copernicus tax	693,154	17,286
Total externally funded expenditure	10,094,819	7,524,036
Total expenditure	68,330,473	59,510,545

15. Expenditure (continued)

Internal tax:

Article 15 of the protocol states "......the staff members of the Centre shall, within the limits provided for in this Protocol, be subject to a tax for the benefit of the Centre on salaries, wages and emoluments paid by the Centre". The Centre, therefore, deducts an "internal" tax from all salaries paid to staff. This "internal" tax deducted is treated as income by the Centre.

Staff salaries are quoted net of tax and grossed up prior to payment where upon Centre tax is then deducted. This grossed-up amount is shown in personnel costs (including personnel costs within Externally Funded Projects, Optional Programmes and Third Party Activities).

15. Expenditure (continued)	2015	2014
	£	£
Revenue		
Internal tax	7,455,124	6,826,676
Total tax included in revenue	7,455,124	6,826,676
Expenditure		
Tax included in personnel	5,710,486	5,371,900
Tax included in externally funded projects	846,872	1,300,193
Tax included in Optional Programmes	55,607	42,421
Tax included in Third Party Activities	149,006	94,876
Tax included in Copernicus	693,153	17,286
Total tax included in expenditure	7,455,124	6,826,676

16. Finance Costs	2015	2014
	£	£
Interest income from overdue contributions	63,907	52,824
Interest income from bank	73,942	57,653
Total finance income	137,849	110,477
Net foreign exchange cost	251,479	272,585
Pension and post-employment benefit costs (note 12)	6,311,896	4,681,134
Bank charges	19,203	15,545
Total finance costs	6,582,578	4,969,264

17. Segment reporting – Statement of Financial Performance

IPSAS 18 'Segment Reporting' requires entities to report on segments on a basis appropriate for assessing the entity's past performance in achieving the objectives and for making decisions about the future allocation of resources.

The Centre has a clear objective to provide the best possible forecast products to its Member States.

The following activities have been separated by segment:

- Core Activities
- Externally Funded Projects
- Optional Programme
- Third Party Activities excluding Copernicus
- Third Party Activities Copernicus only

Additional information is available in Notes 25 & 26.

18. Reconciliation of IPSAS financial reporting to cash results.

The following table combines IPSAS and cash financial reporting. The significant aspect of the financial reporting under IPSAS is the application of the accrual accounting principle with regard to expenses and revenues, pension benefits and other personnel costs, fixed assets and related depreciation. Cash accounting is based on recognition of transactions when there are cash movements.

In order to reconcile this to the cash results, differences between accrual and cash accounting need to be taken into account. These differences can be attributable to timing, or they can constitute permanent differences. The most significant of these differences are the following:

- (a) In cash accounting, revenue is required to cover all committed expenditures. In accrual accounting, revenue and expenses include amounts accruing for the reporting period, other committed expenses or revenue are treated as deferred.
- (b) In cash accounting, capital expenditures are recorded as current-year expenses. In accrual accounting, the expense is capitalised and depreciated over the useful lives of the assets. The capital expenditure and associated depreciation are recorded at their net value as assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Depreciation expense in the year is recorded in the Statement of Financial Performance.
- (c) In accrual accounting, the expense for both pensions and post-employment health cover is estimated by an actuary in accordance with a methodology set out in accounting standard IPSAS 25. The pension and post-employment medical care benefits obligation is reported in the Statement of Financial Position as detailed in note 12.

In cash accounting, pension and post-employment medical care scheme expenditure is accounted for on a payas-you-go basis. For pension benefits, the budgetary contributions are estimated on an actuarial basis to represent the long-term cost of the benefits provided.

The following table shows the reconciliation of IPSAS financial reporting to cash results:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Net deficit for the year from continuing operations as per the Statement of Financial Performance	(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Adjustment for assets capitalised in the year	(2,302,407)	(2,261,279)
Adjustment for depreciation in the year	2,835,175	2,456,830
Adjustment for spend against commitments brought forward from 2014	2,092,318	1,847,223
Adjustment for commitments carried forward to 2015	(2,131,058)	(2,092,318)
Adjustment for finance costs for post-employment benefit (note 12)	6,311,896	4,681,134
Adjustment for post-employment benefit	228,937	(555,550)
Adjustment for accruals	(83,472)	(180,959)
Adjustment for prepayments	(277,562)	200,333
Adjustment for HPC prepayment	1,046,000	9,250
Adjustment for change in inventory	56,821	(80,605)
Other IPSAS timing differences	250,538	66,973
Revenue and expenditure account surplus per cash accounts	631,203	1,012,865

19. Contingencies and capital commitments

ECMWF has no contingent assets and no quantifiable contingent liabilities at 31 December 2015. However, in accordance with IPSAS 19: Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, ECMWF has an unquantifiable contingent liability relating to a claim received from an employee, which is currently being dealt with by the organisation.

ECMWF has contracted capital expenditure of £956,154 in 2015 (2014: £408,765) but not yet incurred as at 31 December 2015.

20. Operating lease commitments	2015	2014
	£	£
Within 1 year		
HPC service contract*	11,172,915	10,442,040
Reading Enterprise Centre**	243,000	-
In 2 to 5 years inclusive		
HPC service contract*	42,380,775	28,715,610
Reading Enterprise Centre**	1,336,500	-
	55,133,190	39,157,650

*A new HPC contract was entered into during 2013 with Cray UK Ltd and this covers the operational period of the HPC from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2018 (initially agreed as 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2018 and subsequently moved by 3 months). In 2015, this lease was extended until 30 September 2020.

**A new rental agreement was entered into during 2015 with The University of Reading which will provide additional accommodation at Reading Enterprise Centre for 7 months from 1 September 2015 to 31 March 2016. A second rental agreement has been placed at Reading Enterprise Centre for 5 years from 1 January 2016 to 30 December 2020, with break clauses after 1 and 3 years.

21. Personnel

The average number of personnel employed by the Centre in 2015 was 283 (2014: 266).

22. Key management personnel

ECMWF was established by a Convention that entered into force on 1 November 1975 (amended June 2010). The organisational structure of ECMWF comprises the Council and the Director-General with six committees assisting this structure.

In accordance with IPSAS 20 'Related Party Disclosures' key management personnel have been identified as follows:

- Director-General and other directors
- Senior managers

The aggregate remuneration for those key management personnel was as follows:

	Number of individuals 2015	Aggregate 2015	Number of individuals 2014	Aggregate 2014
		£		£
The Director-General and other directors	6	963,342	5	786,644
Senior managers	6	1,055,328	6	995,537
Total key management personnel	12	2,018,670	11	1,782,181

There was no other remuneration or compensation to key management personnel or their close family members. Following the commencement of Copernicus services, a new Director has been recruited and started at ECMWF on 1 June 2015.

23. Related party transactions

There were no material transactions with related parties during the years 2015.

There were no loans to key management personnel or their close family members that were not available to other categories of staff.

Due to its status as an international organisation and the rules of its Convention, the Centre does not consider its Member States to be related parties.

24. Statement of Financial Performance by Segment

		Core Activities		Externally Funded Projects		Optional Programme		Third Party Activities (excluding Copernicus)		Third Party Activities (Copernicus only)		ECMWF Consolidated*	
	Notes	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue													
Member & Co-operating States' Contributions		42,401,431	41,997,226									42,401,431	41,997,226
Externally funded revenue		-	-	3,502,358	6,736,243	133,440	95,109	734,934	616,467	6,434,789	252,458	10,805,521	7,700,277
Management fee for Copernicus Services**										1,965,342		1,965,342	
Sales of forecasts and data		4,721,544	4,747,515									4,721,544	4,747,515
Other operating revenue		30,257	19,471									30,257	19,471
Total operating revenue excluding taxes		47,153,232	46,764,212	3,502,358	6,736,243	133,440	95,109	734,934	616,467	8,400,131	252,458	59,924,095	54,464,489
Taxes												7,455,124	6,826,676
Total operating revenue including Taxes												67,379,219	61,291,165
Expenditure													
Personnel costs	15	20,276,429	18,915,840	2,783,630	4,496,007	107,522	76,405	499,115	382,734	2,648,691	48,193	26,315,387	23,919,179
Pension and post employment benefits	12 & 15	6,834,382	5,547,190									6,834,382	5,547,190
Buildings expenditure	15	3,370,137	3,846,753									3,370,137	3,846,753
Computer expenditure	15	16,824,803	15,085,970	37,900	761,281					1,685,817		18,548,521	15,847,251
Other operating expenditure	15	3,632,830	3,283,488	317,963	130,920		120	66,067	96,357	51,135	12,611	4,067,995	3,523,496
Procured Industrial Activities										1,738,927		1,738,927	
Total expenditure excluding taxes		50,938,582	46,679,241	3,139,493	5,388,208	107,522	76,525	565,182	479,091	6,124,570	60,804	60,875,349	52,683,869
Taxes												7,455,124	6,826,676
Total operating expenditure including												68,330,473	59,510,545
taxes													
Operating surplus for the period from continuing operations												(951,254)	1,780,620
Finance income												137,849	110,477
Finance costs	16											(6,582,578)	(4,969,264)
Net deficits for the period from continuing operations												(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Net deficit for the period												(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)

Notes: Costs which are directly attributable to these activities are allocated to Segments. Support costs are allocated to Core, however the revenue received is still shown in the relevant segment.

* Costs are classified according to segment and in some cases may vary in classification to that on the Statement of Financial Performance ** Management fee for Copernicus Services received by ECMWF, to cover support costs in line with the Copernicus Delegation Agreement.

25. Statement of Financial Position by Segment as at 31 December 2015

		Core Activities		Externally Funded Projects		Optional Programme		Third Party Activities (excluding Copernicus)		Third Party Activities (Copernicus only)		ECMWF Consolidated	
	Notes	s 2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets													
Current Assets	_											~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	40.040.000
Cash & cash equivalents	5	6,529,548	3,307,567	1,618,601						12,850,713	7,309,393	20,998,862	10,616,960
Receivables	6	5,021,467	5,245,400	1,677,378	2,631,365					7,966		6,706,811	7,876,765
Prepayments and accrued revenue	7	7,142,112	8,650,812							263,533		7,405,645	8,650,812
Inventory	8	240,445	297,266									240,445	297,266
Total current assets		18,933,572	17,501,045	3,295,979	2,631,365	-	-	-	-	13,122,212	7,309,393	35,351,763	27,441,803
Non current assets													
Property, plant and equipment	9	17,307,419	17,842,496									17,307,419	17,842,496
Pension investment accounts		31,671,085	27,745,377									31,671,085	27,745,377
Total non current assets		48,978,504	45,587,873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,978,504	45,587,873
TOTAL ASSETS		67,912,076	63,088,918	3,295,979	2,631,365	-	-	-	-	13,122,212	7,309,393	84,330,267	73,029,676
LIABILITIES Current liabilities													
Payables	10	5,577,648	4,762,552							1,898,243	66,335	7,475,891	4,828,887
Prefinancing		1,619,139		3,026,507	2,260,993	209,286	114,521	102,437	163,388	10,143,368	7,243,065	15,100,737	9,781,967
Deferred revenue	11	919,358	655,099									919,358	655,099
Total current liabilities		8,116,145	5,417,651	3,026,507	2,260,993	209,286	114,521	102,437	163,388	12,041,611	7,309,400	23,495,986	15,265,953
Non current liabilities													
Employee benefits		187,466,564	181,293,304									187,466,564	181,293,304
Total non current liabilities		187,466,564	181,293,304	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187,466,564	181,293,304
TOTAL LIABILITIES		195,582,709	186,710,955	3,026,507	2,260,993	209,286	114,521	102,437	163,388	12,041,611	7,309,400	210,962,550	196,559,257
NET LIABILITIES		(127,670,634)	(123,622,037)	269,472	370,372	(209,286)	(114,521)	(102,437)	(163,388)	1,080,601	(7)	(126,632,283)	(123,529,581)
General reserve	13											2,394,996	2,394,996
Retained surpluses												(3,886,350)	(808,183)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period												(7,395,983)	(3,078,167)
Actuarial adjustments												(26,396,091)	(30,689,372)
IPSAS adjustment reserve	14											(91,348,855)	(91,348,855)
TOTAL NET LIABILITIES												(126,632,283)	(123,529,581)



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