



EUROPEAN NURSEYSTOCK ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the ENA General Assembly Meeting held on 24th January 2019 (09:35) at IPM trade show – room F (CC East) – Essen (Germany).

Present:

Luigi Pagliani (ANVE - Italy), Henning Roed (DP - Denmark), Mikaël Mercier (Val'hor - France), Emmanuelle Bougault (Val'hor - France), Romain Manceau (Val'hor - France), Markus Guhl (BdB - Germany), Miet Poppe (AVBS - Belgium), Lucien Verschoren (AVBS - Belgium), Tim Van Hulle (AVBS - Belgium), Piotr Bula (ZSzP - Poland), Tim Edwards (HTA & NFU - United Kingdom), Luis B. Martin (Fepex - Spain), Marie Horáková (SŠČR - Czech Republic), Pavel Halama (SŠČR - Czech Republic), Grzegorz Falkowski (ZSzP - Poland), Wojciech Wróblewski (ZSzP - Poland), Mateusz Milczyński (ZSzP - Poland), Patrick Svensson (LRF Trädgård - Sweden), Maja Persson (LRF Trädgård - Sweden), Arttu Haverinen (Taimistoviljelijät - Finland), Pat Farrell (IHNSA - Ireland), Val Farrell (IHNSA - Ireland), Tatyana Boyadzhieva (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Boyana Vasileva (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Albano Moreira da Silva (APPP-FN - Portugal), Umut Sakarya (SUSBIR - Turkey), Stanislav Dontsov (UPIA - Ukraine), Ahmet DüNDAR (SUSBIR - Turkey), Mehmet Alpertong (SUSBIR - Turkey), José Forcadell Gómez (Fepex - Spain), Anastasios Kalantzis (ESEEFY - Greece), Milka Glavendekić (SLHS - Serbia), Dragana Skočajić (SLHS - Serbia), Leon Smet (Anthos - the Netherlands, Promotion WG Chairman), Harm Horlings (Anthos - the Netherlands, Certifications and Labels WG Chairman), Willy De Nolf (AVBS - Belgium - ENA **Treasurer**), Henk Raaijmakers (LTO - the Netherlands - Legislation WG Chairman and ENA **Vice-President**), Jan-Dieter Bruns (BdB - Germany - ENA **President**) and Josep M. Pagès (ENA Secretary General -*SG in the text*-).

1. President's Welcome.

President Jan-Dieter Bruns welcomed all participants, showed his optimism because the autumn season was quite good in both the demand and the prices and the forecast was also positive. He thanked HTA and Tim Edwards for the organisation of the last summer meeting in the UK and invited all participants around the table to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies for absence.

Jan Veltmans (LTO - the Netherlands) and Zoltán Sinkó (MDE - Hungary) had sent apologies.

3. Adoption of Agenda.

The agenda was agreed on without changes.

4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 June 2018 in Oxford (UK).

The minutes from the last General Assembly meeting held on the above date were approved and agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no comments.

6. ENA Articles of Association and Domestic Regulations: Addition of article 4bis to chapter IV. Budget and Financial Management of the Domestic Regulations, as agreed by the General Assembly on 27-06-2018: update.

SG informed that the modifications of the Articles of Association approved by the GA, to modify the official address and to include the new board, are in process to be published in the Belgian Official Journal. He reminded the participants that the GA had agreed on changing the internal regulations to allow the presentation of draft accounts at the GA in January and to allow the Board to approve them (article 4bis in chapter IV. Budget and Financial Management of the Domestic Regulations). This modification was demanded to have enough time to prepare the accounts of the previous year, which is quite a job because of the Green Cities project. The ENA legal advisor was against this modification of the Domestic Regulations to add article 4bis because it is not legal in Belgium. Nevertheless, the board had worked hard to have the financial statements for this GA meeting, and the change was not necessary. For these reasons, SG asked the GA to reverse the agreement.

The GA agreed on reversing the approval of the last Domestic Regulations change (addition of article 4bis), so they will be the same as before the last GA.

7. ENA finances.

a. To receive the annual statement of accounts for 2018.

The Treasurer gave the floor to the SG, who explained that the accounts were presented in a different layout than the one used in previous presentations to the general assembly because a professional accountancy firm is now preparing it. He presented the summary of the annual statement of accounts for 2018.

Income Statement	Consolidated 2018	Green Cities EU 2018	General Activities 2018	Consolidated 2017
Operating income	€ 28.000,00		€ 28.000,00	€ 25.000,00
Operating charges	€ -162.897,89	€ -135.212,64	€ -27.685,25	€ -23.410,98
Financial income	€ 20,97	€ 0,22	€ 20,75	
Financial charges	€ -189,71	€ -9,68	€ -180,03	€ -12,00
Income taxes	€ -66,03		€ -66,03	
Profit / Loss	€ -135.132,66	€ -135.222,10	€ 89,44	€ 1.572,02

SG pointed out that the majority of the invoices related to the Green Cities project actions executed in 2018 had not been received within 2018, and that the investment on the Green Cities project had been financed by the seven participating countries who had lent the money to ENA (amounts payable = 174.160,75€).

	Consolidated 2018	Green Cities EU 2018	General Activities 2018	Consolidated 2017
Social Funds	€ -88.853,77	€ -135.222,10	€ 46.368,33	€ 46.278,89
Amounts payable	€ 180.359,97	€ 175.464,18	€ 4.895,79	€ 5.275,08
TOTAL LIABILITIES	€ 91.506,20			€ 51.553,97
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Bank accounts	€ 91.506,20	€ 40.071,73	€ 51.434,47	€ 51.553,97



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It was explained that there are two separate bank accounts; one for the green cities project and the other for the ENA general activities. SG added that there is no financial risk for ENA due to the Green Cities project expenditure because the payments for the Green Cities activities are made after receiving the same amount from the participating countries.

b. To agree on the budget for 2019, including ENA membership rates.

SG explained that, to accurately forecast the budget for 2019 Green Cities activities was extremely difficult, and presented the budget for the 2019 ENA general activities. It was similar to the last year's budget: keeping the same membership fees (€28.000,00), and adding to the costs the indemnity insurance premium and the consultancy to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation. This would result in a negative outcome on ordinary activities (€-6.650,00) that would be financed using the assets generated by the profit of previous years.

Both the annual statement of accounts for 2018 and the budget for 2019 were approved by the General Assembly, and the President thanked the Treasurer Willy De Nolf for his good job.

8. EU Legislation Working Group.

SG informed that, at the Secretaries meeting, it was agreed on having Henk Raaijmakers (LTO - the Netherlands - ENA **Vice-President**) as WG chairman, in replacement of Marc Van Hulle, who is not attending the ENA meetings anymore, and asked the Belgian delegation to send our thanks and best regards to Marc. Renewing the members of the WG was the first task, and the WG aims to deal quickly, mostly through e-mail, with the EU legislation problems affecting ENA members inside but also outside the EU, explained the WG chairman.

a. Xylella fastidiosa.

i. A short update on the current situation

Henk Raaijmakers summarised the last findings in the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Portugal. Regarding the complaints received about the information disclosed by ENA, he pointed out that ENA had only published the facts and communicated official data.

Albano Moreira da Silva (PT) explained the situation in Portugal, where an outbreak of *Xf* was found in a zoo garden, and all official measures were already implemented.

Luigi Pagliani (IT) explained the new finding of *Xf* in a private garden in Tuscany, in a little peninsula in the sea, where eradication measures were also taken. They suspected it might have arrived from Corsica because of the yachts traffic and due to the fact that it is a different subspecies from the one in Apulia. He also informed that Italy had changed the political approach to *Xf* in southern Italy; the eradication system is in place, although sometimes late, working efficiently despite the political disputes.

Luis B. Martin (ES) complained about the serious consequences -both economical and reputational- for two Spanish nurseries and the entire sector of the wrong information about *Xf*. He agreed with the proposal of ENA to be careful with the information published and asked to check the news before publishing it. He added that the official information from the Spanish



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Ministry of Agriculture was sent to the EC stating that all analysed samples were negative and, therefore, they cancelled the provisional official measures in the two nurseries. He wanted to clarify that, in the Spanish letter sent to ENA in November 2018, it was written that the infected plants didn't originate from Spain, where they wanted to say that, although the plants were from Spain, the infection didn't originate from Spain; as proven by the 950 official tests made in the two suspected nurseries. Finally, he asked for rectification to the association that circulated the unproven information.

WG Chairman emphasized that ENA tries to be as careful as possible and to publish the facts only, and that the mistake on the Spanish letter was the reason it was not fully agreed on at the meeting, while he agreed that we all have to be very careful and, consequently, the names of the companies were never published by ENA. Every country is free to send to their members the information they have and ENA shares only the facts, trying to be as careful as possible, sharing also the additional facts -like in Spain- when the area was officially announced as clean.

WG chairman added that, since March 2018, all EU countries check the most vulnerable plants in all nurseries, so we could expect some new cases of *Xf*, although the surveys are going well, and in the case of a finding, it would not be a big outbreak. Although worried about all the cases, he showed his optimism on the way it's evolving, and he closed with the hope that plant barriers may help to control the spread of *Xf*.

Miet Poppe (BE) announced that they are going to share a factsheet on *Xf*, and she suggested to share all information among members. Umut Sakarya (TR) informed the participants that *Xf* had not been found in Turkey; the government had produced a Regulation to prevent *Xf* in the same line of the EC legislation, and their nurseries are also tested twice a year. Milka Glavendekić (RS) revealed that they also make official *Xf* surveys in Serbian nurseries and gardens. Anastasios Kalantzis (GR) announced that 42 extra agronomists had joined the inspection services to check for *Xf*; the nurseries were checked every 3 months, and they very frequently informed through meetings and events about the activities carried out. Markus Guhl (DE) told that almond nurseries, even in northern Germany, are stopping production because they must test 9 out of 10 plants, every time they want to sell almond trees, as stated in the EU legislation. Tim Edwards (UK) explained that the percentage of plants to be tested depends on the size of the batch (lower % for larger production batches) and added that the British government is investing on diagnostic methods to find more efficient testing processes.

ii. VSPP status

SG informed that the last meeting was scheduled for early February to write the definitive proposal of the certification standard "Voluntary System Preventing Pests" focused on *Xf*. The last draft had been shared with ENA members, and no feedback had been received by ENA.



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Following the discussion held at the last GA meeting, Luigi Pagliani (IT) confirmed that they believe in this certification, and proposed:

- Certification in the Demarcated Areas should be possible, if the nursery has the permission from the authorities to issue plant passports as previewed in the *Xf* legislation.
- Insect proof facilities are not always doable (i.e. large trees), therefore this certification should be adapted in the areas free from *Xf*.
- To expand this certification to other pests.

WG Chairman remarked that *Xf* is the pilot pest of the VSPP and agreed that the certification should be extended to other pests. The convenience of supporting the certification only in areas free from *Xf* and the use of complete net coverage to prevent vectors, as well as the risks of the different options, were discussed.

WG Chairman described three options and proposed to cast a vote:

- A. VSPP is only for zones free from *Xf*.
- B. VSPP is not suitable for the containment or infected zones but allowed in the buffer zone.
- C. VSPP is appropriate for all the Demarcated Areas.

The voting resulted in two votes for option A, eight votes for option B and two votes for option C. The WG Chairman concluded that the growers must always take responsibility, and announced that the most voted option will be defended at the VSPP meeting.

Finally, WG Chairman informed that no changes had been recently made to the IAS (Invasive Alien Species) list and that ENA is preparing to influence the committee members.

b. EU Plant Health Regulation (with the participation of Mr Harry Arijs, Deputy Head of Plant Health at DG Health and Food Safety of the European Commission).

A presentation by Mr Arijs, to be distributed to ENA members, was received. Questions & Answers:

- Financing: EU pays 50% of the surveillance campaigns and MS the other 50%; eradication campaigns are also co-financed at 50%, although in some countries and in certain cases, it may be much higher (75%, 90%). New since 2018: compensation to professional operators may now include the losses.
- Professional customers: include nurserymen, garden centres, fruit growers, landscape contractors, including municipalities and any professional that uses or trades plants. Fruit growers are not final consumers. Professional operators have much more responsibility under the new legislation.
- Trading for the last consumer: from professional to professional, the Plant Passport is required; the traceability code might remain the same from one trader to the other if there are no changes in the batch of plants traded.
- Country of origin: it's required by law.
- The list of high-risk plants (forbidden to import into the EU) is final; plants were categorised following a precautionary principle. No details disclosed. Any NPPO of a non-EU country may submit a dossier asking for the exemptions.



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- In the future, terms like 'non-European countries' or 'Mediterranean countries' will be avoided in the legislation, and the countries will be named if there are additional requirements to import in the EU. This piece of legislation will be on the table in two months.
- Switzerland is the only non-EU country that has a direct agreement with the EU that simplifies the plant trade between this country and the EU.

9. European nurseries statistics update.

SG thanked the members for their cooperation, showed the statistics on the screen, and asked the pending countries for their update. After the final update, the statistics will be shared with all members. The President explained the interest of having data about our sector when having political contacts and Tim Edwards (UK) proposed to ask where the data comes from.

10. Environmental and sustainable certifications and labels.

In the last ENA secretaries meeting, it was agreed that Harm Horlings (Certifications and Labels WG Chairman) would prepare for this GA meeting an explanation of the advantages of FSI for ENA, plus the added value for ENA members, to let the GA discuss and conclude about FSI membership.

The WG Chairman explained that the FSI ambition was that 90% of flowers and plants will be responsibly produced by 2020, though new goals are going to be defined for 2025. FSI includes the entire supply chain and facilitates the sector front-runners with the realisation of their ambition. The WG Chairman added the advantages of FSI for:

- Producers: reduce duplication of standards, reduce costs, have clearer insight on market demand and the increase of market access.
- Traders/wholesalers: increase of market uptake, alignment and harmonisation of different system requirements.
- Civil society: mainstreaming sustainability improvement of social and environmental issues and fact-based discussions.
- Standards: recognition and visibility uptake of future topics, increase in demand, alignment with market demand and facilitate benchmarking.

The WG Chairman argued that if European nurseries want a clear sustainability agenda drafted for and with the sector; to save costs, time and align investments by participating in FSI projects; to get things done, together in a network of sector frontrunners and with access to co-funding; to anticipate and act together on new sustainability issues and strategies; to build pro-active communication on sustainability risks and achievements, and to share expertise and experience by cooperating with NGO's, research institutes and local stakeholders, therefore ENA should become a member of FSI.

FSI proposes two categories of membership: Ordinary membership (Producers, Trade/ wholesalers, Retail, Civil society) and Associate membership (Other companies, Branch organisations, Institutes), and the WG Chairman proposed ENA to join FSI as an Associate, the category for branch organisations.



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Moreover, the WG chairman asked the board for the vision of ENA about sustainability for the next two years.

The President expressed the opinion that ENA should recommend their members to certificate their sustainability, although giving them the freedom to decide the approach in each country and letting each nursery to make this decision, as some members had pointed out in the discussion. The Vice-President recognised the necessary ambition for sustainability, but he suggested to wait for the market to decide which certification will be the leader. The delegates from Poland and Portugal, unlike other delegates from Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, didn't see any problem with ENA joining FSI.

The WG Chairman, looking at the members' reaction, proposed the GA to stop working on this issue. Finally, it was agreed that ENA's mission on sustainability should be written down and Harm Horlings (WG Chairman) accepted to prepare it. Finally, the Vice-President thanked Harm Horlings for all the work done.

11. "Green Cities" promotion project (2018-2020)

a. 2018 project execution summary

Leon Smet (Promotion WG Chairman), summarised the first year of the execution of this B2B project in the seven participating countries, explaining each work package. (*Presentation to be distributed to ENA members*).

b. Proposal for the next call (2021-2023)

The WG Chairman finished proposing the continuation of the project with more members. The final proposal, including all the participants, budgets, detailed program and all the documents, should be submitted in February-March 2020 because the call for proposals is normally published in January every year. The evaluation process takes around six months and, if positive, the Grant Agreement with CHAFEA would be signed by the end of 2020. The execution period would run from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2023. A fact-sheet was distributed, asking those interested members to return it, to find out what the interest was in order to organise preparations with interested organisations. Several members already showed their interest at the meeting.

Finally, the WG Chairman invited all interested delegates to join the afternoon Green Cities project meeting.

12. Research Projects participation (H2020 call)

a. Grow4Green.

Miet Poppe (BE) informed about the 'Grow4Green' -growing ornamentals for green infrastructure-proposal. The goal is creating a thematic network to collect existing scientific knowledge and best practices and to translate this knowledge into easily understandable end-user material. The proposal included 16 participants from 19 different countries, and the project, if approved in the H2020 call, would last from 2020 until 2022 and be financed 100% by the EU.



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SG informed that the period to apply for funding H2020 research projects had closed the day before the GA meeting. Therefore the ENA board had to decide about the participation of ENA in these projects. ENA's participation in a third project had been discarded by the board.

b. SAFE (on plant health).

SG briefly summarised the project proposal SAFE (Tackling Significant losses in Agro-ecosystems For Emerging vascular pathogens), that target the existing diseases *Verticillium dahlia*, Flavescence doree, *Xylella fastidiosa*, the new disease *Candidatus* phytoplasma Phoenicium, and focused on insect-transmitted or rapidly spreading emerging pests. Twenty partners from 9 countries will participate in this 2020-2023 project if approved in the H2020 call (100% funded by the EC).

In both projects, ENA main task would be the dissemination of information to the nurseries.

The General Assembly agreed with the decision taken by the board to participate in both projects.

The Vice-President asked the assembly if, in the eventuality that in the future the ENA Board should decide on similar approvals without the option to ask the General Assembly, would they agree to do so if three conditions were met: important and relevant project for most members, no financial risks for ENA and that ENA had the capacity to do it and this would be paid. It was agreed on by the General Assembly.

13. Political tables (past -Brussels- and future)

The President explained the chances and opportunities that offer political tables and keeping good contact with politicians and decisions makers. He summarised the meeting in Brussels with MEP Herbert Dorfmann talking about CAP and the short meeting with MEP Pavel Poc and the agreement to meet again in Bad Zwischenahn (Germany) in spring, along with the usual ENA secretaries meeting if possible.

The Vice-President thanked BdB and Markus Guhl for taking care of the organisation and the expenses of the first political table held in October 2018.

14. The direction of ENA.

The Vice-President explained that he had discussions with some members about the future of ENA. He summarised that, now, ENA is mostly platform of exchanging knowledge and discussing nurseries' problems (i.e. *Xylella*) and ambitions (i.e. sustainability) and that some working groups are acting on all this. He added that **lobbying** is most important for the EU and also non-EU members, to influence policies. ENA is also a **platform for projects**, like the Green Cities, that is quite a big project and not easy to organise. That it's giving ENA the opportunity to learn from it and to strengthen the organisation even financially, and he offered ENA to the members/countries for projects they may be interested in. Lastly, he advocated for implementing a **communication** strategy, internally for ENA members but also externally, regularly sending a newsletter that summarises the most important



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issues ENA is doing in the Working Groups and where information from the ENA members would also be shared (i.e. legislation changes). He concluded that capacity and money are necessary to be ambitious, although instead of doubling the membership fees, he proposed to make a step by step progress, keeping the same fee and increasing the income adding organisations from countries that are not members yet.

Willy De Nolf (ENA Treasurer) noted that the membership fee had been the same for more than ten years and, therefore, there is some margin for an increase.

The President proposed to formally invite the nurseries organisations in non-country members to the next summer meeting.

The Vice-President volunteered to prepare a written proposal about the direction of ENA, including a budget, and to present it to the next GA meeting.

15. GA summer meeting 2019 – Ukraine.

Stanislav Dontsov (UA) showed the final program in the Kiev area. He offered a program for partners and also a visit to Chernobyl if there were interested people. He asked for early registration for a good organisation and asked around the table how many participants are planning to attend the summer meeting. By raising hands, around 20 delegates showed their interest in being there. He reminded that there are two airports in Kiev and asked the participants to be careful to avoid any airport confusion and offered to organise the transfers from and to the airports.

16. Press release.

It was agreed on letting the ENA board prepare it, pointing out the most important issues discussed by the GA.

17. AOB.

- Umut Sakarya (TR) offered to organise the 2021 summer meeting in Turkey.
- Leon Smet (NL) recognised that it was very relevant to have an EC representative in the meeting and encouraged to have a strategic alliance with EU officers, like Mr Harijs, having periodic contacts and sharing information, in the benefit of all countries.

President Jan-Dieter Bruns thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 13:55.