

**Minutes of the ENA General Assembly Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (09:30 - 12:55) at IPM trade show – room L (CC Süd/South) – Essen (Germany).**

**Present:** Tim Edwards (United Kingdom – **President**), Pantelis Michalas (Greece), Mateusz Milczyński (Poland), Grzegorz Falkowski (Poland), Caroline Föllmi (Switzerland), Henning Roed (Denmark), David Brown (United Kingdom), Patrick Svensson (Sweden – **Vice-President**), Jyri Uimonen (Finland), Arttu Haverinen (Finland), Zoltan Sinkó (Hungary), Maróti Lászlóné (Hungary), Maurizio Lapponi (Italy), Leonardo Capitanio (Italy), Edoardo Sciutti (Italy), Marc Van Hulle (Belgium, **Legislation WG Chairman**), Nele Lauwers (Belgium), Willy De Nolf (Belgium - **Treasurer**), Harm Horlings (Netherlands, **Certifications and Labels WG Chairman**), Leon Smet (Netherlands, **Plant Names and Promotion WGs Chairman**), Markus Guhl (Germany), Val Farrell (Ireland), Tatyana Boyadzhieva (Bulgaria), Emmanuelle Bougault (France), Jean-Marc Vasse (France), Alba Ridao (Spain), Jan Veltmans (Netherlands), Henk Raaijmakers (Netherlands), Albano Moreira da Silva (Portugal) and Josep M. Pagès (**Secretary General**).

**1. President's Welcome.**

President Tim Edwards opened the meeting welcoming all the attendants, particularly the first time participants from France and Hungary, and invited all to introduce themselves.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

Jaume Riera (Spain), Milka Glavendekić (Serbia), Elaine M. Farrell (Ireland), Mina Tsonkova (Bulgaria), Ronny Berdinesen (Norway), Nikos Thymakis (Greece), Maja Persson (Sweden) and Heinz Kunz (Switzerland).

**3. Agreement of the Agenda.**

The agenda was adopted.

**4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous GA meeting held on 16/17 June 2015.**

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 not included on the agenda.**

There were no comments.

**6. President's introduction.**

The President pointed out that the Promotion program was the main item on the agenda and asked for the cooperation of all participants to keep the meeting focused to finish on time.

**7. European nurseries statistics update.**

SG summarized the data received from ENA members (available on the website) and explained that it is not very consistent with the data presented in January 2015, suggesting that the greatest

differences are due to the more accurate data supplied from some countries. Because of those major differences, it was proposed not to publish this year's data and wait for the next series.

As suggested during the secretaries meeting it was agreed **to add the minimum wages in our sector (wage + insurance = total cost) to the data requested to each country** and to present this new information to the next GA.

As requested by some participants, **additional explanations, on the figures ENA is asking for**, will also be provided.

## 8. ENA finances:

### a. To receive the annual statement of accounts for 2015.

SG presented the summary of the annual statement of accounts for 2015 (available on the website), including the Income Statement that stated a total income of 20.017,18€ and total expenses of 23.934,41€ resulted in a loss of 3.917,23€; the Statement of Financial Position at 31-12-2015 showed assets of 45.862,11€, liabilities of 5.914,09€ and net assets of 39.948,02€; the Cash Flow by date was also quickly shown. All country members but Hungary had paid the 2015 membership fee. **The annual statement of accounts for 2015 was approved by the General Assembly.**

### b. To agree on a budget for 2016, including ENA membership rates.

The budget for 2016 (also available on the website) was presented by the SG and the President, a continuation of 2015 on most aspects including the proposal to keep the same membership fees. The budgeted income was 21.000€ and the budgeted operating expenses were 21.450€. The President mentioned the forecast loss for the year might easily be covered by the net assets, but he pointed out that a small increase on the number of members would balance the budget. After a short discussion, **the budget for 2016 was approved.**

## 9. ENA EU Legislation WG:

Marc Van Hulle, chairman of the Legislation WG, introduced the different items.

### a. IAS (Invasive Alien Species).

GA was informed about the letter sent to the EU Commissioner in October 2015 with his reply (available on the website), and about the recent decision of the European Parliament to call on the Commission to withdraw its draft list of IAS of Union concern and to submit a new draft.

Marc Van Hulle proposed publishing generic information explaining to nurserymen the importance of alternatives to IAS.

Some delegates disagreed on producing a list of alternatives because there are many different aspects like climate or environment, while other delegates supported that having a list of recommendations is better than having only an imposed official list.

It was agreed:

- **To wait for the new list of IAS of Union concern**
- **To ask to the EC to be part of the consultation**
- **To produce** in February **a press release and a statement for the EU** explaining that not all alien species are invasive, that most garden species are alien but they are noxious only if they are also invasive; that we have very good alternatives, including sterile cultivars, and that suitable alternatives depend on where in the EU they are going to be planted; finally asking to the governments to fund R&D in this way.

**b. Plant health:**

**i. Proposed EU Plant Health Regulation.**

GA was informed that the trilogies were finalised (technical agreement between EU Council, Parliament and Commission) and the text is in process for a formal presentation and vote in Council and Parliament.

It was agreed **to invite a representative of the Plant Health Unit of EC to the spring secretaries meeting.**

**ii. *Xylella fastidiosa*.**

Leonardo Capitanio (Italy) explained the situation in Italy, where administration has problems to eradicate affected millenary olive trees because they are considered living monuments; Italian Ministry proposed to the EC a new eradication plan and wants a different legislation. He also stated that the situation in nurseries is absolutely different and because they are having all nurseries outside the Demarcated Areas tested, it can be assured they are free of the disease. Other delegates declared that the rules, the same for the whole EU, must be followed and it was also affirmed that no exceptions should be allowed. The risk of tourists moving plants from infected zones was identified.

The President summarized the situation asserting that authorities are acting correctly within and outside the Demarcated Areas in the two affected countries and gave his opinion that hard measures, although painful, give confidence to the rest of the industry.

Edoardo Sciutti (Italy) defended that controls are quite correct, according to the European audit, and proposed to have a round table on plant health with the EC. As agreed in the previous point, **a staff member from the EC will be invited to the next secretaries meeting.**

**c. Plant Protection Products.**

The President explained that different **European expert groups** working to increase the availability of PPP had been identified and proposed **to ask about their reports on what's being done, what products are threatened to be taken away, and actions to have alternatives.** It was suggested asking this information reported by the PPP zones.

Marc Van Hulle, chairman of the Legislation WG, also proposed **to contact the ENAR** (European Nursery Applied Research) **scientists group**, if it still exists.

**d. Combined Nomenclature.**

Marc Van Hulle, chairman of the Legislation WG, reminded the GA about the Guide published by ENA and asked how to inform the software companies. Patrick Svensson (Sweden – Vice-President) informed that in Sweden the companies importing less than 1 million € don't have to inform using the CN codes, so most nurseries are not using it. The President asked the GA if the CN codes information is going to be useful; Marc Van Hulle replied it will be very useful to better know the international market flows while Harm Horlings (NL) replied it's making the job more difficult and asked to stop adding more codes.

It was agreed **to forward to ENA members the EU official description for each code when published**, presumably in March; **to inform software houses** after asking the **ENA members to identify those companies** and **to discuss during the General Assembly in January 2017 the changes that should be made** in the CN codes.

**10. International Plant Names List Working Group update.**

Leon Smet (NL, WG Chairman) reminded that all ENA members had the opportunity to contribute to update the plant names list and informed that the lists were almost finished and they will be published in March 2016.

**11. Environmental and Sustainable Certifications and Labels.**

Harm Horlings (NL, WG Chairman) explained that his proposal was not ready, that he is in contact with FSI and that he planned to have a proposal before the next meeting.

**12. ENA Promotion Working Group.**

Leon Smet (NL, WG Chairman) summarized the proposed promotion program based on Green City, which had been communicated to ENA members and improved with their feedback. It was agreed that **ENA will act as the applicant for the EU promotion grant**, at no cost for ENA and with the condition that ENA will not have financial exposure. Leon Smet (NL, WG Chairman) proposed to hire Mr Van Vliet (Horticonsult) as a consultant to do all the paperwork necessary to make the application, and it was agreed on. The cost of the advisor will be divided proportionally by the participants. The cost for the application will be 15.000€ to be assumed totally, and the annual cost might be between 30.000€, if he does only the paperwork, and 60-70.000€ if he is in charge of everything; being this annual fee subsidisable. It was **agreed to outsource the job to the consultant** if the participants agree on it in the afternoon meeting.

Emmanuelle Bougault (FR) made a short presentation about the promotion activities her organisation Val'hor is doing in France.

**13. ENA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.**

SG summarized the idea of **planting a tree in each country on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016** to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (draft proposal details in the website) and the President reminded to **the ENA members that it will be their job to make it possible in their country**. It was agreed to carry on with the project and **also to plant a tree in the European Parliament** in Brussels.

**14. Proposals from FEPEX (Spanish organisation).**

President Tim Edwards thanked the Spanish organisation for the input contained in their letter (available on the website) and encouraged all members to give their ideas to have a better and more useful association. He asked the Spanish delegate if FEPEX was happy with the reply given (also available on the website) and Alba Ridao (ES) confirmed.

**15. ENA new members: to explain contacts with prospect members.**

SG summarized the contacts made with the organisations in Austria and the Czech Republic and informed that after the dissolution of the Hungarian Alliance and Product Board of Propagating Materials Growers, the Hungarian organisation member of ENA is the Western Transdanubian Nursery Association.

Emmanuelle Bougault (FR) presented **the French organisation VAL'HOR** and applied to be a full member of ENA. **It was voted and unanimously accepted** and President Tim Edwards stressed the importance of having France in ENA.

**16. Summer meeting 2016 (Bulgaria 21-23 June).**

Tatyana Boyadzhieva (BG) summarized the program of the summer meeting (available on the website) and offered to organize an extended visit to the Black Sea for the following weekend if there are interested people.

It was agreed to follow the proposed program and to ask members about their interest for the visit.

**17. Future election of President, Vice-President and Treasurer.**

The President reminded to the attendants that ENA should have elections during the summer 2016 General Assembly meeting. SG informed that no replies were received to the email sent out asking for candidates. Tim Edwards told the GA that he would be happy to renew as President for the following period. It was agreed on **to look for a Vice-President to be elected in the summer General Assembly meeting, who would become President over two years**.

**18. State of industry.**

SG presented the infographic summarizing the trend of production and market evolution, produced with data supplied by ENA members, and it was agreed on to include it in the press release.

**19. Date of next meetings.**

As described in the summer meeting program, it was agreed to have the next **General Assembly** meeting on the afternoon of **Tuesday 21-06-2016** and the morning of **Wednesday 22 June 2016 in Sofia (BG)**.

It was also agreed to have a **Secretaries meeting around May in Brussels**, to have the opportunity to meet with EC Plant Health officers. The date will be discussed with the EC officers and communicated in due time.

Alba Ridao (ES) offered her office in Brussels to host the meeting.

**20. Press release.**

It was agreed to highlight in the post-meeting press release the following: Val'hor as a new member representing France, the state of industry, the updated plant names lists that are coming in March and the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October.

**21. AOB (any other business).**

Alba Ridao (ES) informed that Commissionaire Phil Hogan has scheduled a visit to China and Japan in April, accompanied by a delegation of European executives from agricultural sectors, to support the strengthening of trade relations.

Albano Moreira da Silva (PT) emphasized again the importance of having France in the ENA.

Harm Horlings (NL) asked about the possibility to introduce in the **ENA website** information in other languages than English. SG replied that the template was ready and it was agreed **to ask members to supply information in their language** to be included.

Tim Edwards (UK – President) thanked everyone for their cooperation to keep the meeting on track and closed the GA meeting, inviting those interested in the Promotion program to remain in the room to discuss further details about it.