

Minutes of the ENA Secretaries Meeting held at 12h30 on **17th November 2016** at
ANVE - Confindustria office | Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée 1/a, **Brussels**

Present: Tim Edwards (UK – President), Marc Van Hulle (BE – Legislation WG Chairman), Leon Smet (NL – Promotion WG Chairman), Harm Horlings (NL – Sustainability WG Chairman), Paolo Zacchera (IT), Jana Roels (BE), David Brown (UK), Emmanuelle Bougault (FR), Alba Riado-Bouloumié (ES), Markus Guhl (DE), Helma Hoff (NL) and Josep M. Pagès (Secretary General -*SG in the text*-).

1. President's Welcome.

The President thanked ANVE, the Italian organisation, for hosting the meeting and invited all participants around the table to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies for absence.

Maja Persson (SE), Jyri Uimonen (FI), Ronny Berdinesen (NO), Caroline Föllmi (CH), Nikos Thymakis (GR), Edoardo Sciutti (IT), Mina Tsonkova (BG), Elaine M. Farrell (IE) and Grzegorz Falkowski (PL) had sent apologies.

3. Agreement of the Agenda.

The agenda was agreed on, including a change in the discussion order (item 10 being discussed between 8 and 9).

4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th May 2016.

The minutes were agreed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

The President commented, in regard to Plant Protection Products -item 7a-, that the proposal to have an ENA committee on PPP was superseded by the following General Assembly. (*Please refer to the minutes of the General Assembly held on 21-06-2016, item 7a*).

6. ENA financial situation update.

SG informed that all members had paid their membership fee for 2016 except one (*note: it was sorted out in a few days after the meeting*), that all participants in the promotion project punctually paid their contribution and that, so far, the income and expenses are within the budget.

It was agreed on having the accounting closed by middle of next January, to have the 2016 accounts presented to the GA for approval.

Finally, SG thanked Sabine de Smet at AVBS office for taking care of the bank account paperwork.

ACTION:

- to prepare the 2016 accounts summary for the GA (SG)

7. Promotion Working Group: “Green City” proposal.

President Tim Edwards reminded the meeting participants that the proposal was turned down by CHAFAE and that according to the agreement made with Horticonsult, they would help us to prepare another application at no extra cost, detailing the decisions to make: 1) to apply again and 2) open the project to new participants.

Leon Smet (Promotion WG Chairman) commented that after the unexpected rejection, he has been working with Cees Van Vliet (Horticonsult) and summarized that more market information from each participant country will be needed and that a more coherent, integrated application with a unified European message should be presented. He added that the new topic for 2017 promotion grants will be “climate” and it might be an opportunity for our proposal.

The President pointed out that this was the first time that such grants were set up, therefore having the disadvantage that anyone did not know how they were evaluated and he announced that other proposals made by important Dutch organisations in the flower sector had also been rejected, probably because the EC gave priority to programs in third countries. Leon Smet added that he is waiting for the list of multi-programs accepted by CHAFAE.

Leon Smet quickly reviewed the evaluation received and in his opinion, we failed on the lack of a whole European vision for the total proposal, including the role of ENA, and in the harmonization of the activities’ budget to be carried out in each participant country.

The new application period should open in January (closing in April) therefore we need to start making the new application very soon. It was decided to ask participants if they:

- would like to make a new application?
- would they be able to supply additional technical and financial information, including market information?

Leon Smet volunteered to prepare the questionnaire, insisted on having mostly B2B activities in all countries, instead of B2C as some countries proposed, and added that, in his opinion, we should be open to other countries to join.

Markus Guhl (DE) announced that Germany wanted to apply again and it was said that the entire application should be improved and adapted to the Climate topic. Leon Smet insisted that should be written from a truly European point of view but it was concluded that the promotion actions will be executed by each country, not by ENA, although more pan-European coordination should be included. Marc Van Hulle (BE) suggested to add to the application the information on CO₂ reduction and the help from nursery stock.

It was suggested that new participants would have to pay for the application cost, using the same formula of the first application that would allow some extra finance input for the group.

The delegates from the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Belgium also expressed their interest in participating in a new application. It was agreed on having a WG meeting in middle December, face-to-face if possible or online otherwise. Emmanuelle Bougault (FR) invited all to the event in Paris “les Victoires du Paysage” to be held on December 8th.

The President remarked that having the minimum score is necessary but not enough, because the financial availability is limited and, as consequence, only better scores will have the grant.

ACTION:

- to forward the proposal and the CHAFEA feedback to all ENA members (SG).
- to ask participants about their interest and commitment to make a new application (Leon Smet & SG)
- to convene a WG meeting in middle December (President, Leon Smet & SG).

8. Environmental and sustainable certifications and labels.

Harm Horlings reminded the group that it is all about sustainability, the need to get a certain standard accepted by several countries and highlighted the role that ENA may have on it. He recapped that he had met with FSI (www.fsi2020.com) and they informed him that working together would be possible but that ENA should choose a standard among the several schemes of the “standards map” and it’s difficult because standards in each country are different. He pointed out that ENA doesn’t probably have the budget to study all standards, to choose a basic scheme for ENA and to compare it with the others.

Harm Horlings informed us he met with MPS (www.my-mps.com/en/), an organisation active in many countries, and he presented to them the problem to solve. MPS replied -just the day before the meeting- with a 2-option proposal: 1) to join existing MPS standards and 2) to develop a new ENA standard, although in his opinion, this last option is unrealistic because we don’t have the structure or the budget to do it. Harm proposed a 3rd option: to accept the several schemes of each country, and put the “Fair Trees Fair Plants” (FTFP is an organisation already existing) and ENA on top of this; the way to begin might be asking to each country the schemes they have and what are their needs, to become also certified by FTFP. He added that this is the quickest, easiest and cheapest way of doing it.

When asked about FSI and the equivalence tool, Harm Horlings pointed out that before working with it, we’d need to develop an ENA standard for sustainability to be compared later. He insisted that his proposal is to keep the existing standards and to add an additional one on top of those, that would be the European one. The process he proposed would be: 1) asking FTFP to investigate in interested countries the schemes they use and to evaluate if those are usable as basic sustainability schemes to comply with FTFP and, if they comply, 2) to add this top mark to the national certification, therefore in this way we’d have a European one. He indicated that sustainable grown plants will be an absolute requirement for all markets in a few years. Although comparing the standards in the FSI

equivalence tool should be easy for nursery customers, in the practice they never check it; this is the main reason to have one mark accepted all over Europe.

Markus Guhl argued that, although this proposal would suit the traders, it would be very difficult for growers to implement more than one standard.

The President summarized that this idea needs to be developed to elevate the proposal to the General Assembly. If a certain number of countries are interested in joining is necessary, and he proposed 1) to ask FTFP what and how they could achieve it and 2) to ask each ENA member if they would like to proceed having a mark on the top of the currently used ones. It was added that this top certification would have a cost, that should be roughly estimated.

ACTION:

- FTFP and ENA to prepare a document with a proposal for the GA in January (Harm Horlings and SG).

9. EU Legislation Working Group:

The President introduced the item thanking Marc Van Hulle, the WG chairman, who attended the meetings of EC Civil Dialogue Group H.O.S. 'Flower Sector', following an invitation from Alba Ridaio, and the EC Meeting on Xylella and current Plant Health Legislation annexes. SG reminded all that information from both meetings was shared, added that ENA applied to become a registered EFSA stakeholder, and informed that EC launched a public consultation on Water Reuse (open until late January 2017). The President suggested, for future consultations, to prepare a briefing note that laid out the items and guides to our members on the considering matters. In regard to this Water Reuse public consultation, he proposed to have a small team with Helma Hoff and David Brown to prepare the briefing note for ENA members.

ACTION:

- to prepare a briefing note on the Water Reuse public consultation for ENA members (Helma Hoff, David Brown, SG).

a. IAS Invasive Alien Species

SG introduced Mr Valentin Opfermann, Policy Advisor of COPA-COGECA on IAS, and President Tim Edwards welcomed him, framing the way ENA works.

Mr Valentin Opfermann began explaining that the day before he had a meeting with Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa (Director of Natural Capital at EC DG ENVI) to raise their concerns on several topics including IAS. Since many species that are under Risk Assessment (RA) are actually in the trade and might be banned, COPA-COGECA was trying to come up with economic evidence of the importance of these plants for the plant sector; because both biological and social and economic aspects should be included in the RA but only biological assessments are very well

done by scientists and experts; member states authorities are cooperating or doing it. He complained that member states never consult the stakeholders in regard to social and economic aspects. He reminded that the Union List was updated in July 2016 and that the EC is already working on an update (12 species under RA) expected to be published in spring 2017 and after that, there will be updates on a regular basis. The process is: each Member State (MS) can prepare a RA and present it to the EC; it is discussed in the Scientific Forum (scientists from MS) and if it passes it goes to the IAS committee (MS), that approves it by qualified majority (not unanimity). The sector can only influence the economic or social aspects of the RA, because ecological and environmental aspects are absolutely covered by scientists and environmentalists. It's concluded that the best way should be, in close cooperation with Copa-Cogeca, to present evidence of the economic importance of a specie (people working in the industry on each plant, production figures, estimates of the value of the plants, etc.). It was pointed out that if a specie is spread already, it should not be a candidate for the Union list under present Regulation, and that despite the opinion of the politicians, it's clear that economic aspects are not covered and there is no protocol for the economic part of the Risk Assessment. The MS are tending to add species in the EU list instead of the national list because they are afraid of the costs and because MS think that if a specie is forbidden in some countries only, it can arrive from other countries; although Mr Valentin Opfermann supported that those shouldn't be valid arguments and he claimed that using National lists should be an opportunity that MS are not using. He remarked that contacting the representatives from each MS in the Scientific Forum and the IAS Committee and lobbying them hard is the only way to defend our interests. In regard to sterile varieties, that clearly don't pose a threat, the EC told him at the meeting that they were going to look at it and that the EC might recognise a list of sterile varieties. Copa-Cogeca is participating at the EC Working Group on IAS along with NGOs and MS, and he suggested to have a look at the decision flow chart on IAS (*To be received from Valentin Opfermann*).

Mr Valentin Opfermann works on Biodiversity, Environment, Water, Research and Innovation at Copa-Cogeca where they have a Working Party on Environment and they might invite ENA to the meetings and share information. He is preparing a position paper he will share with us to include our contribution. President Tim Edwards asked SG to prepare an ENA position paper with nursery industry concerns to be sent to the EC and to prepare a document for the General Assembly.

Mr Valentin Opfermann informed that RAs are announced in the MS and that, along the months they are studying the species, the nurseries organisations should be in close contact with national authorities. (*Advice: To follow CIRCA website closely*)

President Tim Edwards thanked him for his guidance looking forward to cooperate with Copa-Cogeca on this topic and on water issues too.

ACTION:

- To periodically check the list of species under RA, on CIRCA (SG)

- To react to the list of species under RA lobbying contacts in each country (ALL members)
- To develop an ENA position statement for the General Assembly -for our members and to be published on the website- and as a letter for the EC (SG).

b. EU Plant Health Regulation

Marc Van Hulle, the WG Chairman, informed that the new EU Plant Health Regulation was already approved without amendment, that it will be soon published in the Official Journal of the EU and that, after publication, there will be a period of 3 years to implement it, adding new practical rules (delegated acts).

In regard to the DRAFT Implementing Directive amending the technical Annexes of the Plant Health Directive 2000/29/EC, SG informed that comments were received from BE, the UK and from the NL but those were contradictory. As ENA, we didn't have time to open discussion because the feedback from members arrived at the deadline, so we didn't take any position and gave a neutral opinion. Regarding the Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP) questionnaire, SG informed that no feedback was received from ENA members on vine plants nurseries, that on Forest nurseries we agreed on a proposal drafted by Ben Leonhard (DK) that was also used by EFNA, and that for the Ornamental plants and Fruit trees some comments were received from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany and the Netherlands.

As this item was a long and difficult one to work on together, it was discussed on how to improve the reaction process to technical consultations to get more and better output as ENA, and it was decided to raise this item to the General Assembly.

ACTION:

- to make a proposal for the GA on the ENA procedure to answer consultations (President & SG).

c. Plant Protection Products

As agreed on by the GA, Marc Van Hulle, WG Legislation Chairman, is in contact with Dr Bruno Gobain, the Chairman of the Commodity Expert Group Ornamentals, to have a summary of their work and present a report to the GA next meeting.

d. *Xylella fastidiosa*.

SG informed that, after a quiet summer, in late October and beginning of November:

- a new outbreak was detected in the Apulian buffer zone,
- France might ask for contingency measures for the southern part of Corsica, in PACA region one plant infected with *Xf* subspecies *pauca* was identified in Menton,
- an additional plant (*Rosmarinus*) was detected in Germany -*Xf* subsp. *fastidiosa*-,
- on 10th November, one outbreak was confirmed in Mallorca island, in a Garden Centre, on 3 *Prunus avium* -*Xf* subsp. *fastidiosa*-,

- Europhyt informed that a *Pelargonium hortorum* was intercepted at the BIP of Madrid's airport, arriving from Mexico.

He added that in the following week the EC Phytosanitary Committee was going to discuss the inclusion of *Pelargonium sp.*, *Rosmarinus officinalis* and *Prunus avium* as hosts of *Xf* subsp. *fastidiosa*.

Paolo Zacchera (IT) informed that inspections from the EC carried out in Italy were satisfactory. Marc Van Hulle (BE) complained that, because of *Xf*, now the time to get a Phytosanitary Certificate takes much longer than before. Harm Horlings (NL) raised his concerns about the lack of information on *Xylella* in too many nurseries, despite the official and sector campaigns. Markus Guhl said that German nurseries are scared and, together with the Garden Center association, they produced information for the sector. Finally, it was agreed on sharing all the information on *Xf* published by ENA organisations.

ACTION:

- to share all ENA members' publications on *Xf* (SG to ask members, ALL members to reply).

e. EU Fertilizers Draft Regulation.

Helma Hoff (NL) framed the problem with the CFR (Controlled Release Fertilizers) in the draft of the new EU regulation. She got an alternative text from Fertilizers Europe (www.fertilizerseurope.eu) and she suggested spreading it out to be used by ENA members to lobby national governments. She indicated that the fertilizer industry wouldn't be ready before 5 years' time, to have the coating technology that might comply with the draft Regulation.

SG added that in a Fertilizers Europe conference he attended the day before the Secretaries meeting, he was informed that the European Parliament began to work on the file (3 EP committees: ENVI, AGRI and IMCO), that the first draft reports should come out in December, and that amendments should be tabled until January in the different Committees.

It was agreed on to cooperate in developing a joint statement with other organisations (ENA, Fertilizers Europe, Copa-Cogeca, NFU and other organisations) and to send it to the Commission and to the EP Committees.

ACTION:

- to inform all ENA members with the recommendation on how and who to lobby in each country (MEPs, Governments, rapporteurs).
- to prepare a joint statement with Copa-Cogeca, Fertilizers Europe and other organisations (SG)
- to inform the GA at the next meeting.

10. Flormart trade show presentation.

Ms Cristiana Bertero, from Padova Fiere, Italy, made a presentation of the FLORMART trade show, organized by GL Events, the second leading trade shows organiser worldwide. The 38th edition of

Flormart will be held next 21-23 September 2017 in Padova and she presented the new project and proposal (a paper presentation was shared), a combination of the green concept on sustainability “manifesto terra verde”, the Flormart trade show as classical promotion and trade event and AB-origine project related to biodiversity.

She added that the last edition of Flormart had an ANVE (Italian nurseries organisation) area for Italian nurseries and she asked if ENA could work together on making a proposal for the participation of some countries in their trade show and also for the promotion of some events.

Paolo Zacchera (IT) added that having an Italian area was a success for nurseries and for ANVE and that, according to his experience, the cost should not be a limitation.

It was agreed on having the proposal presented to the next GA.

ACTION:

- to receive the proposal from Flormart (SG)
- to forward the proposal to all ENA members, before the GA meeting (SG).

11. Balance of the ENA 25th anniversary organisation.

SG informed the group that, as far as he knows, 22 trees had been planted by ENA members. He asked all participants to receive pictures and information of the events held in order to complete the information already published on the ENA website.

Emmanuelle Bougault (FR) added that they are going to plant the tree on November 25th near Paris; Marc Van Hulle (BE) explained about the planting event held in Brussels, including a meeting in the European Parliament with the participation of the Chairman of the ENVI committee. Markus Guhl (DE) told that their ceremony was cancelled due to agenda problems with the Foreign Affairs Minister and they plan to plant the tree next spring. He added a proposal to have the planting in Brussels, the EU capital, in the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, inviting Mr Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. The event would end with an ENA reception as the closing ceremony of the 25th ENA anniversary celebration. This proposal was agreed on and the spring secretaries meeting will be scheduled for the same day.

ACTION:

- to send pictures of the tree ceremonies to the SG, for the ENA website (ALL pending countries)
- to schedule the final ceremony (Markus Guhl, DE)

12. New members' applications.

SG shared that the Association “Ukrainian plant industry” applied to become member, that all necessary information had been received, and he thanked Mina Tsonkova (BG) for her help on reviewing the documentation received in Ukrainian. It was agreed on having them at the next General Assembly, to receive a presentation of the Ukrainian nursery sector and to decide on the approval of their membership. SG mentioned that he keeps in contact with the Nursery Association

of the Czech Republic but that they are not reacting yet and, in regard to Austria, Markus Guhl (DE) volunteered to contact them again.

ACTION:

- To schedule the Ukrainian nursery sector presentation at the next GA (SG)
- From now on, to keep the Ukrainian association informed of ENA activities (SG)
- To invite Czech and Austrian organisations again (SG and Markus Guhl)

13. Points of view on Brexit. Should ENA take a position?

Tim Edwards (UK) reasoned that BREXIT is a most important issue for the UK nurseries and they want to keep working and trading with EU nurseries and he wondered if it should be discussed by the GA. SG informed that the Italian organisation would like to discuss TTIP as well, after the election of the new US President; although David Brown (UK) heard that the elected USA President scrapped TTIP. Tim Edwards added that they want to remain members of ENA. As there is not much to talk about now, it was agreed on not taking a position on Brexit and not including this item in the next GA agenda.

14. ENA Summer meeting 2017 – Finland.

SG reminded the group the proposal received from the Finnish organisation:

- Sunday 25th June: arrival to Tampere, Hotel Rosendahl
- Monday 26th June: meeting in the morning and meeting and/or visits in the afternoon
- Tuesday 27th June: visits and arrival to Rantasalmi -Huutokoski Nursery
- Wednesday 28th June: visit to UPM forest nursery and departure

It was agreed on to ask the Finnish organisation to include a visit to a landscaping project and to a Garden Centre.

ACTION:

- To prepare the detailed program and to submit it to the GA (SG and Finish organisation).

15. Date of Next Secretaries Meeting.

The President reminded the group that the next GA meeting will be held on Thursday 26th of January 2017 at IPM Essen (09h30, room L) and thanked the German association for the organisation of the ENA reception to be held on the previous evening at the BdB booth in IPM. Harm Horlings (NL) informed the secretaries that an event to present Dutch horticulture will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th January. Finally, it was agreed on having an ENA secretaries' dinner on Wednesday evening.

ACTION

- To make a reservation for the ENA secretaries dinner (SG to send out invitations, ALL secretaries to confirm participation and German organisation to book the restaurant).

- To convene the secretaries meeting in May 2017, on the same date of the last planting tree ceremony (SG).

16. AOB

- a) It was decided not to put publicity of ENA in the website www.planteria.eu and therefore not to add a budget for it in 2017.
- b) SG informed the Secretaries that he is going to ask all ENA members for an update of nursery stock data in each country, to present them to the GA.

ACTION:

- to send the country information data to ENA (ALL secretaries).

Finally, Alba Riado-Bouloumié (ES) offered her office in Brussels to have the next secretaries meeting, including a parking place for participants arriving by car.

The President thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 15h55.