

Minutes of the ENA General Assembly Meeting held on 25th January 2018
(09:35 – 13:00) at IPM trade show – room F (CC East) – **Essen** (Germany).

Present:

Emmanuelle Bougault (Val'hor – France), Romain Manceau (Val'hor – France), Stavros Tsalouchos HEPMEA – Greece), Arttu Haverinen (TP - Finland), Riccardo Disperati (SUSBIR – Turkey), Miray Engin (SUSBIR – Turkey), Patrick Svensson (LRF-T - Sweden), Maja Persson (LRF-T - Sweden), Stanislav Dontsov (UPIA - Ukraine), Albano Moreira da Silva (APPP-FN - Portugal), Jan Veltmans (LTO - Netherlands), Val Farrell (IHNSA - Ireland), Maurizio Lapponi (ANVE - Italy), Luigi Pagliani (ANVE - Italy), Henning Roed (DP - Denmark), David Brown (HTA - United Kingdom), Markus Guhl (BdB - Germany), Miet Poppe (AVBS - Belgium), Grzegorz Falkowski (ZSzP - Poland), Mateusz Milczyński (ZSzP - Poland), Tatyana Boyadzhieva (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Boyana Vasileva (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Edoardo Sciutti (ANVE – Italy), Caroline Föllmi (Jardin Suisse – Switzerland), Leon Smet (Anthos – Netherlands, Promotion WG Chariman), Harm Horlings (ANTHOS - Netherlands, Certifications and Labels WG Chairman), Willy De Nolf (AVBS - Belgium - **Treasurer**), Jan-Dieter Bruns (BdB – Germany – ENA **Vice-President**), Tim Edwards (United Kingdom – ENA **President**) and Josep M. Pagès (ENA **Secretary General** -*SG in the text*-).

Pavel Halama (SSCR – Czech Republic) joined the meeting as an observer.

1. President's Welcome.

President Tim Edwards opened the meeting welcoming all the attendants, especially Mr Romain Manceau (FR), Ms Miray Engin (TR) and Mr Riccardo Disperati (TR), who were attending their first ENA meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Nikos Thymakis (HEPMEA – Greece), Jyri Uimonen (TP - Finland), Zoltán Sinkó (HNA- Hungary), Milka Glavendekić (SLH - Serbia), Alba Ridao (Fepex – Spain), Jaume Riera (FEPEX - Spain), Luis Martín (Fepex – Spain), Henk Raaijmakers (LTO - Netherlands), Marc Van Hulle (AVBS - Belgium, Legislation WG Chairman) and Elaine M. Farrell (IE) had sent apologies.

3. Agreement of the Agenda.

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous GA meeting held on 25-26 June 2017 in Tampere (Finland).

The minutes of the last General Assembly were approved and agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.

SG apologised that he had not produced a paper on Combined Nomenclature Codes as approved by the last GA.

6. ENA finances.

a. Annual statement of accounts 2017.

SG presented the summary of the annual statement of accounts for 2017 (available on the website), including the Income Statement that stated a total income of €25.063,00 and total expenses for €23.485,98, resulting in a profit of €1.577,02.

The President pointed out that ENA had assumed around €2.000 of costs that could be allocated to the Green Cities project, but which couldn't be included in the Grant because the costs happened before the signature of the Grant Agreement. Although it might be claimed back from the 7 participants in the project, he proposed to the GA that ENA would assume these costs because the project is a great benefit for ENA and all its members, there will be an opportunity for members to join the next project, from the grant ENA doesn't want to leave any money on the table and some costs might also be shared with the project. This was approved.

The Financial Position Statement as at 31-12-2017 showed assets of €51.553,97, liabilities of €5.275,08€ and net assets of €46.278,89. All country members had paid the 2017 membership fee.

b. To agree on a budget for 2018, including ENA membership rates.

SG presented the budget for 2018, pointing out the big difference with 2017 due to the new Promotion Project "Green Cities". The budget proposed general operating income and general operating expenses similar to 2017 (€28.000,00), keeping the same membership fees. The budget for the Green Cities Project of €762.900,00, to be financed by the seven participating organisations (BE, BG, DE, DK, FR, NL and UK) and a Grant from CHAFEA (80%). This project will use a separate bank account.

c. To agree on adding an item 6 to the chapter IV (Budget and Financial Management) of the Domestic Regulations.

The President recapped how the payments are made according to the chapter IV of the Domestic Regulations. The Green Cities project is going to need many payments and the current rules are not practical, it was therefore proposed that a new paragraph be to the relevant chapter:

"6. The policy and procedures described in item 5 may be modified to comply with the rules of specific projects in which the General Assembly has authorised ENA to participate, although only for the expenses and payments directly related to the specific project."

After being asked by the President, the General Assembly:

- **Approved the annual statement of accounts for 2017.**
- **Agreed on the total budget for 2018 – € 790.900,00 –.**

- **Agreed on changing the domestic regulations and agreed that the Green Cities project will be recognized as being dealt with separately.**

ACTION:

- To officially register the 2017 annual accounts to comply with the legislation (SG and AVBS office in Belgium).

7. Cooperation with other organisations: EFNA, Entente-Florale (AEFP – Association Européenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage), Green City Year 2020.

SG explained to the GA the relationship with **EFNA (European Forestry Nurseries Association)**. Their Secretary-General is Mr Bent Leonhard (DK), who had been participating in ENA for many years, until he retired. Both SGs had agreed on sharing information to better serve both association's members and to better lobby in Brussels. As an example, ENA was invited this same week to a meeting in Brussels with a Group of Experts to discuss Raising Awareness on Plant Health and to make a presentation of ENA's activities; Mr Bent Leonhard agreed on delivering the presentation prepared by ENA's President and SG. SG asked the GA and **it was agreed on keeping the cooperation.**

Entente-Florale (AEFP – Association Européenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage <http://www.entente-florale.eu/>) is a competition for Towns and Villages. Miet Poppe (BE) introduced the organisation, chaired by a Belgian President, that had approached ENA to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, although its aim was not clear. Several delegates (DE, UK, FR, PT) added their opinion, but the general reaction was that, at this point, to sign a MoU was not necessary. Finally, **it was agreed on inviting them to a future meeting to introduce themselves.**

Arttu Haverinen (FI) updated the GA on the **“Green City Year 2020”** and, at this point, it is not necessary to act.

8. New activity proposal: to have an annual ENA reception in Brussels inviting MEP and EC representatives.

At the Secretaries Meeting, discussion asked how ENA might achieve more in the future. This idea came up, which might give ENA greater visibility for little low cost. The proposal was to celebrate an annual reception in Brussels, bringing together MEP and EC representatives, the same day of the Secretaries meeting. President Tim Edwards pointed out that it will be necessary to identify a theme/message, develop the program, target the audience, run the event, contact press, etc. Vice president Jan-Dieter Bruns strongly supported the proposal.

The GA agreed on developing the proposal and presenting a draft at the summer GA meeting. It was also **agreed on having a Working Group**, chaired by Markus Guhl (DE) and including Leon Smet (Promotion WG chairman) and the Belgian organisation.

9. European nurseries statistics update.

SG thanked the members for sharing the information, pointed out that the global data are getting better and presented the data.

Some members expressed their concerns about the quality of some data from some countries; however, some are figures from official sources and others are approximates. It was concluded that having figures, even if they are best guesses, is necessary to show the importance of the nursery stock sector.

ACTION:

- To distribute the data to all members (SG).

10. ENA new members.

The President Tim Edwards again welcomed the Turkish delegates and invited them to make a presentation.

a. Presentation of the Turkish nursery sector by SÜSBİR, the Ornamental Plants Growers Union.

Riccardo Disperati (TR) presented SÜSBİR, the Ornamental Plants Growers Union of Turkey. It's a trade association, which is the only public institution that represents the ornamental plant growers in Turkey, who are required by law to become members of SÜSBİR. They have about 600 members that account for nearly 50% of the total production area. He also gave data on production areas and foreign trade. It was indicated that their Plant Health Regulations are similar to the EU ones.

b. To decide on the SUSBIR (Turkey) application for membership.

SG informed the GA that the membership application and all necessary information had been received and found correct. The General Assembly discussed the acceptance of the application and, by a large majority, **SÜSBİR was accepted as the 21st ENA member.**

ACTION:

- To distribute the SÜSBİR presentation to all members (SG).

11. Environmental and sustainable certifications and labels.

Harm Horlings, Certifications and Labels WG Chairman, presented Mrs Yolande van den Boom, CEO of the MPS Group, and asked her to introduce their views on sustainability, before discussing the proposal previously sent.

Mrs van den Boom expressed the idea that sustainability is like a container where different concepts may be included (i.e. energy use, environmental aspects, social circumstances, etc.), although she preferred the UN definition, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". She drew



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attention to the meaning of quality assurance and to the certification benefits. Finally, she reminded the attendants that MPS was a founder of FS12020.

Harm Horlings thanked her for the presentation and explained that he had been working with MPS to produce the document circulated to the members, indicating that we don't necessarily need to use MPS, although it's a possibility. **The proposal would allow each country to have its own sustainability label and, on the top of it, there would be the possibility of adding a European label.**

It was emphasized that we were trying to address a problem that mostly affects exporting countries, nurseries that must be certified by different schemes, involving different audits and many costs. It was recognised that some countries have a national scheme while others don't and that the market sector is also relevant: garden centres are more demanding of certifications than the landscaping industry. Recognition of the schemes across different countries would be necessary.

After questions and comments with points of view from different countries, it was clear that ENA was not in a position to produce equivalences between different certification schemes.

It was agreed to have a discussion on sustainability during the summer GA meeting, considering that ENA has very limited funds. France and Italy volunteered to work on identifying a common position, or an assurance scheme that may fit this purpose, and the other countries were invited to join the discussion.

ACTION:

- To distribute the MPS presentation to all members (SG).
- To discuss possibilities and to prepare a proposal for the next GA (Harm Horlings, FR, IT).
- To internally discuss in each country the sustainability ambition of the European nurseries (ALL).

12. Promotion Working Group.

Leon Smet, Promotion WG Chairman, informed the GA that ENA obtained a grant from CHAFEA (European Commission) for the promotion project "Green Cities", with 7 participants (BE, BG, DE, DK, FR, NL, UK) for 2018-2020 (total budget €2,1M, maximum grant €1,7M). After the GA meeting, a GC Project meeting was going to be held. He added that the project should continue in the future, opening it to other markets/countries, and asked all delegates to think about this.

The President mentioned that the future change in the Presidency of ENA would give an opportunity to look at where ENA wants to go and proposed to have fundamental discussions in the summer meeting. He also recapped that a lot of member states were already spending money on green city activities, funding this project, and that multiplying the investment by five. He suggested that a lot of ENA members could do the same and that a B2C -business to consumer- campaign might be implemented, bringing money into a pot together and multiplying it by five. As this needs to be thought about very seriously, he argued that it needs discussion in the summer meeting.

ACTION:

- To prepare a discussion on future projects for the summer GA meeting (ALL).

13. EU Legislation Working Group:

In the absence of Marc Van Hulle, the WG chairman, SG summarized the activities carried since last GA:

- September 11, meeting with the Plant Health Unit of the EC in Brussels, to discuss Xylella and future plant passport format.
- October 26, Conference “electronic official controls of food and plant products” Information Management Systems for Official Controls (IMSOC)
- November: 3 day European conference organised by EFSA on "Xylella fastidiosa: finding answers to a global problem" ENA was invited to give the Researchers the opinion of nurseries (along with Copa·Cogeca and EC Plant Health Unit).
- November: participation in the POnTE AND XF-ACTORS Projects Annual Meeting
- November 23, participation in the Plenary meeting of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health, to which ENA has been accepted as a member.
- Reacted to:
 - Plant Passport format draft Regulation; ENA asked that, in the Passport, the reference to the previous grower was erased. It was admitted and only an internal traceability code will be necessary.
 - Non-Regulated Plant Quarantine Pests survey, by EPPO
 - EC Draft Regulation on *Rhynchophorus*
- At the EC Expert Group meeting - Plant Health Awareness Raising, 22 January 2018, Copa·Cogeca and ENA were invited to give a presentation; the President and SG prepared it and Mr Bent Leonhard delivered it.

a. IAS Invasive Alien Species.

SG informed that:

- ENA asked for a position in the European Commission “Working Group on Invasive Alien Species” and that nominated Dr Marco Hoffman
- ENA has been cooperating with Copa·Cogeca -Mr Valentin Opfermann- and he has volunteered to participate in a next ENA meeting in Brussels.
- European Commission informed that in 2018 there will be no further update of the List of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern.

SG asked delegates to keep lobbying their country representatives in the IAS committee and scientific forum. Finally, he explained that ENA had also reacted to the methodology for risk assessments of Invasive Alien Species Draft Regulation.

ACTION:

- To lobby each EU country representatives in the IAS committee and scientific forum (ALL).

b. Plant health: *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Edoardo Sciutti (IT) informed the GA that the situation in Italy was unchanged, that nurseries are aware of the updated EU Decision, that they are following the rules and he complained that non-Italian European buyers were asking for extra-certificates for *Xylella*.

SG summarized the report received from Spain informing that the situation is under control in Alicante, that they are working with the Ministry on compensation – including compensation for nurseries not directly affected by the disease but having their plants blocked– and that they are working on a *Xylella* free plant certification. SG also stated that a WG within the XFactors research project is working on a *Xylella* free plant propagating material certification project.

Jan Veltmans (NL) explained the exercise that has taken place to assess the cost and impact for nurseries in the Netherlands should an outbreak occur. He insisted that making Ministries in all countries aware of the danger for the nursery businesses is necessary. Edoardo Sciutti (IT) explained the ongoing discussion on who is going to pay for the *Xf* analysis, that could depend on the region. David Brown (UK) suggested sending a questionnaire to ENA members to ask how each country is doing the controls, what is the cost and who is paying for it. Markus Guhl (DE) informed the GA that they had translated their proposal on compensations and the information they have distributed to their members. Willy De Nolf (BE) alerted that some garden centres don't want plants from countries with *Xf*. It was suggested that a clear message should be given that supply from a disease-free regions should not be banned because a member state is affected in another region.

GA agreed that ENA would write a statement clarifying the position of nurseries: nurseries carry responsibilities, decisions taken must be based on scientific evidences, it is not fair to ban an entire country because they have demarcated zones, recalling the difference between host plants and specified plants and that traceability should be guaranteed.

Finally, SG informed the GA that a letter from the EU Commissioner was recently received in reply to our letter sent out in July 2017.

ACTION:

- To distribute to all members the report received from Spain, the information about the XFactors WG project on *Xylella* free certification, the simulation from the Netherlands, the German information. (SG).
- To invite all members to share again what they are doing in each country on awareness raising, compensations, etc.
- To prepare a statement with the nurseries position as agreed on by the GA. (SG, President).



c. New Plant Health Protocol for the UK nurseries.

Tim Edwards (UK) explained to the GA the UK new Plant Health Standard. He concluded that the nurseries preferred to act, starting this initiative, rather than react to the authorities' requirements.

ACTION:

- To distribute the information to all members (SG).

14. Best practises to enter the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan plant markets.

Stanislav Dontsov (UA) made a presentation and shared their experiences in these markets.

ACTION:

- To distribute the presentation to all members (SG).

15. Summer meeting 2018.

David Brown (UK) gave an update on the next summer meeting 2018: the meeting will be held in Oxford on the 27th and visits will be made from the 28th to the 30th of June. SG made the proposal to convene the meeting in the morning of 27th and that delegates travel the previous day, gathering together for dinner.

The GA agreed on having the 2019 summer meeting in Ukraine and in the Netherlands in 2022. Germany made the proposal to have the 2020 meeting in Bavaria.

16. To convene the elections in the summer GA meeting.

President Tim Edwards reminded the delegates that in the next summer meeting there will be elections to the ENA board of directors. The current Vice President would be elected President and a new VP should be elected. The President asked all delegates to think about that.

It was agreed on looking at which members had not ever been in the Presidency and to talk to the right people.

ACTION:

- To list the countries (SG) and to contact delegates (President, Vice President, SG).

17. Press release.

It was agreed on producing a Press release including that ENA was successful in the application of the EU Grant (Green Cities Promotion Project), that Süssbirk had been approved as a new member and also the statement about *Xylella*.

ACTION:

- To write the press release (SG, President).



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18. AOB (any other business).

The delegate from Portugal asked to explain his vote against the entrance of a Turkish association in ENA, due to the human rights violations and the lack of freedom in Turkey.

Miet Poppe (BE) explained to the GA that the tree planted in Brussels to commemorate the 25th anniversary of ENA didn't survive the summer and she offered to get a quotation to plant a new one. The President suggested to plant the replacement at the event to be held in autumn.

Pavel Halama (CZ) revealed that they would like to become members of ENA and it was agreed on sending them the application form.

The President thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 13h00.