

# EUROPEAN GRASSLAND FEDERATION

## CONSTITUTION

(Revised 9 June, 1994)

### 1. Name

The name of the Federation is the EUROPEAN GRASSLAND FEDERATION.

### 2. Objectives of the Federation

- (a) To facilitate and maintain close contact between European Grassland Organisations.
- (b) To promote the interchange of scientific and practical experience between grassland experts.
- (c) To initiate symposia and other meetings between European Grassland Organisations.

### 3. Membership

Membership of the Federation will be open to National or Representative Grassland Organisations in Europe. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, individual grassland workers may become Corresponding Members of the Federation, provided that they are resident in a European country or territory and that the country or territory does not have a national or representative organisation which has membership of the Federation.

### 4. Executive Committee

The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by an Executive Committee which shall consist of:

- (a) The President of the Federation, who will serve from the end of one General Meeting to the end of the next, and who shall be a member of the host-organisation which is preparing the General Meeting to be held during his term of office. The nomination for President shall be made by the Executive Committee for ratification by the Business Meeting.

- (b) The immediate Past-President of the Federation, or a member of his host-organisation nominated by the immediate Past-President.
- (c) The Secretary of the next General Meeting of the Federation.
- (d) One member to represent each of the following regions:
  - i) Northern Europe
  - ii) Central Europe
  - iii) Western Europe
  - iv) Eastern Europe
  - v) Southern Europe
  - vi) South Eastern Europe
  - vii) North Eastern Europe

Each regional member shall serve from the end of one General Meeting to the end of the second General Meeting thereafter.

Alternately three or four out of the seven members will be elected at each General Meeting. At the final Business Meeting, the countries to provide the representatives for the different regions shall be determined. The name of the representative shall be chosen by the member organisation of that country and must be communicated to the Federation Secretary as soon as possible but not later than the end of the year in which the Business Meeting is held. If the country has no member organisation, the choice of the representative may, at the discretion of the Business Meeting, be decided by the Executive Committee. The representatives are obliged to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee or arrange substitutes when unable to attend.

- (e) The Executive Committee shall have powers to co-opt not more than two additional members.
- (f) There shall be a Federation Secretary who shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for liaison with member organisations and corresponding members and for such other activities as the Executive Committee shall request. The Federation Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee, but shall not have a vote unless he/she is also a member under sections 4a to 4d above. He/she shall act as Secretary to the Executive Committee. The Federation Secretary shall be elected (or re-elected) at the final Business Meeting of each General Meeting or shall be chosen in such manner as the Business Meeting may decide.
- (g) The expenses incurred by the Federation Secretary shall be paid out of a Fund. This fund receives a sum per paying registered delegate at General Meetings and symposia, the sum to be decided by the Executive Committee. The Federation Secretary can withdraw money from the Fund after signing by him/her and the President.

## 5. Execution of the Programme of the Federation

- (a) General meetings and symposia shall be held in the different countries within the Federation. These meetings shall be arranged so that they do not interfere or clash with International Grassland Congresses or similar functions.
- (b) A General Meeting is one which will be of interest to all members of the Federation and to which all member organisations are invited.
- (c) Symposia will deal with specialised topics, which because of their restricted nature will not be of interest to all members.
- (d) A General Meeting will be held at least once every three years.
- (e) At the final Business Meeting of each General Meeting, the location, topic and date of the next General Meeting will be agreed. The Executive Committee of the Federation will be responsible for ensuring that at least one country presents a firm invitation to act as host for the next General Meeting. In this, they may ask for assistance from the organisers and leaders of delegations of the preceding Meeting.
- (f) Once an organisation has been invited and has accepted to act as host to meetings or symposia, it should first reach agreement with the Executive Committee on the precise venue, programme, number of members, etc., but the organisers will be free to seek advice, if they so wish, from other countries. Once these have been agreed, it will then have complete responsibility for the meeting. The finances of any meeting shall be the responsibility of the host-organisation.
- (g) If an organisation has been invited to act as host for the next General Meeting, and has agreed, and the organisers then find they are unable to fulfil this task, they must immediately inform the President and the Federation Secretary. Or alternatively, if no material progress has been made within a reasonable time by the host-country to organise a meeting, the Executive Committee will then arrange for another country to act as host and, if it is not possible for the General Meeting to be held at the time originally arranged, will advise on a suitable alternative date.
- (h) At the completion of one General Meeting, the secretariat of that meeting should hand on as much information as possible to the organisers of the next meeting. This should include the names and addresses of the secretaries of the Member Organisations or Representatives.
- (i) Proposals for symposia shall be submitted to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also suggest topics for specialised symposia. Symposia may be held at any time with the approval of the Executive Committee.

## **6. Voting Powers**

- (a) At every General Meeting there will at least one Business Meeting at which any matters pertaining to the Federation shall be discussed. Each country represented at the Business Meeting shall have one vote.
- (b) A simple majority is required for normal decisions.

## **7. Honorary Life Presidents**

Honorary Life Presidents of the European Grassland Federation may be elected at a General Meeting.

## **8. Changes in the Constitution**

Changes in the constitution may only be made at a Business Meeting of a General Meeting. Three months notice in writing of the proposed change shall be given to the President and to all Member Organisations. The proposal must receive at least 66 % of the votes at the Business Meeting.