

EGF Business Meeting, Lublin (Poland)

7 June 2012, 10:30-11:15, Congress room, Conference Centre

President Piotr Stypinski was in the chair

Minutes

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 10:30 with a welcome to all participants.

2. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting held in Kiel (Germany), 2 September 2010

The minutes of the previous Business Meeting had been on the notice board for everyone to read. There were no comments.

3. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 30 August 2011 (Gumpenstein) and 5 June 2012 (Lublin)

The Executive Committee dealt with the following items:

a) 17th EGF Symposium 2013

The Committee accepted the proposal for the 17th EGF Symposium 2013 on 'The role of grasslands in a green future – Threats and perspectives in less favoured areas' to be held in Akureyri, Iceland.

b) 25th EGF General Meeting 2014

The proposal for holding the 25th EGF General Meeting 2014 in Aberystwyth, United Kingdom, was accepted.

c) 18th EGF Symposium in 2015

The Netherlands have expressed the willingness to organise the 18th EGF Symposium in 2015. The Executive Committee supported this.

d) Invitation for the 26th EGF General Meeting 2016

The EGF got an official invitation for 2016 by Norway to host the 26th EGF General Meeting. The Executive Committee gave green light to start planning.

e) EGF Fund

The Fund is in a healthy state. The balance is CHF 19'046.20 or EUR 15'690.09, respectively (1 EUR = 1.2139 CHF by 31 December 2011).

f) Scientific Advisory Board

The Federation Secretary forms a Scientific Advisory Board for consultation on strategic and scientific aspects.

g) Contacts with the EU

EGF has established contact to the DG AGRI to be maintained in the future. EGF Resolutions on the CAP reform were elaborated to be sent to the EU.
EGF shall form a new Working Group on Agri-Environmental Indicators.

4. Progress Report on the 17th EGF Symposium on 'The Role of Grasslands in a Green Future – Threats and Perspectives in Less favoured Areas' to be held in Iceland, 2013

Helgadóttir, the General Secretary of the Organising Committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. She invited everybody to attend the Symposium at Akureyri, Iceland, 23-26 June 2013, and to send abstracts before 15 August 2012.

5. Arrangements for the 25th EGF General Meeting 2014 proposed to be held in the United Kingdom

Marshall presented the concept for the special anniversary General Meeting, to be held 8 to 12 September 2014 in Aberystwyth, Wales. The proposed theme of the meeting is 'EGF at 50: the future of European grasslands'. *Marshall* drew attention to the information flyer and invited everybody to attend the EGF General Meeting 2014 in Wales. The Business Meeting accepted the invitation with applause.

6. Elections to the Executive Committee

a) President

Marshall (United Kingdom) is proposed as new President for the period 2012-2014, which was met by approval from the audience. He thanked for the election and the confidence placed in him. The EGF flag was passed on from Poland to the United Kingdom. Past President *Stypinski* continued to chair the Business Meeting.

b) Regional representatives

The following countries were elected in the Executive Committee and approved by the EGF Business Meeting to represent their region:

Northern Europe – Finland

North Eastern Europe – Estonia

Eastern Europe – Bulgaria

South Eastern Europe – Bosnia/Herzegovina

The President thanked *Helgadóttir* (Iceland), *Stypinski* (Poland), *Petrychenko* (Ukraine) and *Tomic* (Serbia) who represented these regions during 2008-2012.

c) Federation Secretary

Kessler was re-elected for a term of two years.

7. EGF Resolutions on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Peeters (Belgium) presents the proposal for the EGF Resolutions on the CAP reform (referring to the proposals of the European Commission of 12 October 2011). The resolutions were prepared by him, further developed in a Workshop here in Lublin and

approved by the EGF Executive Committee, thereafter.
The EGF Business Meeting approves the proposed formulations.

8. Reports

a) Report by the Editor of Grass and Forage Science

The Editor, *Hopkins*, reports that in 2011 Grass and Forage Science received 247 submitted papers, approximately the same as in 2010 and continuing the increase of recent years.

Papers submitted in 2011 originated from 42 countries (on the basis of address of first author). One-third of submissions (76 papers) were from Europe, and a similar proportion from Asia and Middle East, followed by Latin America (39) Australia and NZ (22). In 2011 there were 51 papers accepted for publication (many of these were carry over papers from 2010). Thus, the acceptance rate has been about 1 in 5.

The headline 2-year impact factor for the journal is currently 1.1, as based on the citations in 2010 of papers that had been published in 2008 and 2009. This value is in the middle of the range for journals in its category.

b) Progress report from the EGF Working Groups

The 'Grassland re-sowing and arable rotation', 'Dairy farming systems' and 'Grazing' will present their reports on the EGF website.

The EGF Working Group "Semi-Natural Grasslands" chaired by *Tonn* (Germany) had its first activity, a short workshop, on 5 June, in Lublin. The first objective would be to develop a common understanding and definition of 'semi-natural grasslands' and delineate them from other broad categories of grasslands, with a focus on the agricultural and environmental services and challenges that characterize these different grasslands.

9. Any other business

Marshall, the new EGF president, thanked *Stypinski*, *Golinski*, *Harkot* and *Kulik* and the whole Polish team for hosting and organising this 24th EGF General Meeting in Lublin, Poland.

10. Closing

Stypinski closed the Business Meeting at 11:10.

Zurich, 22 July 2012

Willy Kessler
Federation Secretary