

## **EGF Business Meeting, Aberystwyth (Wales)**

**11 September 2014, 11:00-11:50, Aberystwyth University – Arts Centre**

President Athole Marshall was in the chair

### Minutes

#### **1. Opening**

The President opened the meeting at 11:00 with a welcome to all participants.

#### **2. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting held in Lublin (Poland), 7 June 2012**

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

#### **3. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 25 June 2013 (Akureyri, Iceland) and 9 September 2014 (Aberystwyth, Wales UK)**

The Executive Committee dealt with the following items:

a) 18<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium 2015

The Committee accepted the proposal for the 18<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium 2015 on 'Grassland and forages in high output dairy farming systems' to be held in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

b) 26<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting 2016

The proposal for holding the 26<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting 2016 in Trondheim, Norway, was accepted.

c) 19<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium in 2017

Italy has expressed the willingness to organise the 19<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium in 2017. The Executive Committee was happy to support this offer.

d) Invitation for the 27<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting 2018

The EGF got an official invitation for 2018 by Ireland to host the 27<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting. The Executive Committee appreciated the invitation and gave the green light for planning.

e) EGF Fund

The Fund is in a healthy state. The total assets amount CHF 15'161.52 or EUR 12'371.70, respectively (1 EUR = 1.2255 CHF by 31 December 2013).

#### **4. Progress report on the 18<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium on ‘Grassland and forages in high output dairy farming systems’ to be held in The Netherlands in 2015**

*Nolles*, the General Secretary of the Organising Committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. He invited everybody to attend the Symposium at Wageningen, The Netherlands, 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, and to submit abstracts before the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2014.

#### **5. Arrangements for the 26<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting 2016 proposed to be held in Norway**

*Nesheim* presented the concept for the 26<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting, to be held 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Trondheim, Norway. The proposed theme of the meeting is ‘The Multiple Roles of Grassland in the European Bioeconomy’. *Nesheim* drew attention to the information flyer and invited everybody to attend the EGF General Meeting 2016 in Norway. The meeting accepted the invitation with applause.

#### **6. Elections to the Executive Committee**

##### a) President

*Nesheim* (Norway) is proposed as new EGF President for the period 2014-2016, which was approved by the audience. He thanked for the election and the confidence placed in him. The EGF flag was passed on from the United Kingdom to Norway. Past President *Marshall* 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:

Central Europe – Switzerland

Western Europe – Belgium

Southern Europe – Italy

The President thanked *Ratay* (Slovakia), *Marshall* (United Kingdom) and *Canals Tresserras* (Spain) for having represented these regions during 2010-2014.

##### c) Federation Secretary

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

#### **7. Collaboration of EGF with the EU Commission**

*The Federation Secretary* described the positive development of the relationship with the EU Commission since the visit of Brussels by an EGF delegation in 2011. It is based on various collaborations with the DG AGRI and Eurostat: input in the form of opinions, proposals to methods, involvement in the development of the Strategic Implementation Plan for the EIP-AGRI (<http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/>) by participating in the High Level Steering Board and in several Sherpa Meetings, motivation of researchers to participate in surveys, expert panels etc., and development and submission of Grassland Term Definitions to Eurostat.

*Conclusion.* The contact with the EU continued and was significantly intensified and strengthened.

## 8. Reports

### a) Report by the Editor of Grass and Forage Science (GFS)

*Hopkins* reported that GFS has been able to consider publication of some plenary papers from EGF General Meetings or Symposia as 'invited' review papers. The number of pages per year has been increased. The number of new papers submitted in the last 2 years was slightly reduced this year. The most-quoted two-year Impact factor value nearly doubled in the last 2 years (1.93 for 2013, 1.57 for 2012, 1.10 for 2011). A special theme issue of GFS on legumes was published in June 2014.

### b) Progress report from the EGF Working Groups

The chairmen of the this year's pre-conference workshops reported on their activities:

- Grazing, chaired by *Van den Pol-van Dassel* (The Netherlands)
- Semi-natural grasslands, chaired by *Tonn* (Germany)
- Grassland Term Definitions and Classifications, chaired by *Peeters* (Belgium)
- Eucarpia Festulolium Workshop, chaired by *Humphreys* (United Kingdom)

The outcome of the EGF Working Groups 'Grazing' and 'Semi-natural grasslands' will be published on the EGF website.

## 9. Any other business

*Nesheim*, the new EGF president, thanked *Marshall* and the Welsh organising committee for hosting this 25<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting in Aberystwyth, Wales. We very much appreciated the great work, the perfect organisation and warm hospitality.

## 10. Closing

*Marshall* closed the Business Meeting at 11:55.

Zurich, 25 November 2014

Willy Kessler  
Federation Secretary