

**Business Meeting held in Badajoz, Spain on 6 April 2006
during the 21st General Meeting**

President J. Piñeiro was in the chair

Minutes

1. Opening and Minutes of the Business Meeting held in Luzern, 24 June 2004

The President opened the meeting at 13.00h with a welcome to all participants. The minutes of the Business Meeting of 2004 had been on the notice board for everyone to read. There were no comments.

2. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 29 August 2005 and 4 April 2006

Thanks were expressed to Selge and colleagues of the Organising Committee for a successful EGF2005 in Tartu, Estonia, which was attended by some 180 participants. The Proceedings appeared as volume 10 in the EGF series 'Grassland Science in Europe'.

- a) The 14th Symposium will be on 'Permanent and temporary grassland: plant, environment and economy', to be held in Gent, Belgium, 3-5 September 2007.
- b) EGF got a letter of invitation for the 15th Symposium 2009 by the Czech Republic. The invitation is supported by the Executive Committee.
- c) An official invitation for the 23rd General Meeting 2010 was received by Germany. The invitation is supported by the Executive Committee. Nevertheless, according to the Constitution, the final venue of a General Meeting should be made at the Business Meeting of the previous General Meeting which will be in Sweden 2008.
- d) Since this year papers from the EGF series are abstracted in the databases of CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International). In addition to this even full papers will be published in the CABI Full Text Repository. This was made possible by the support of Roger Wilkins and is fixed by a contract between EGF and CABI.
- e) EGF Fund. The Fund helps to cover administrative costs and occasional expenses by the Federation Secretary. The Fund is in a healthy state, with money coming in from meetings (per paying participant 10 SFr, which is about 6 Euro) and from the sale of Proceedings, through the good services of the British Grassland Society. The balance was at CHF 14,217.60 by the end of 2005.

3. Report on the preparations for the 14th symposium: EGF2007

De Vliegheer, chairman of the forthcoming symposium on 'Permanent and temporary grassland: plant, environment and economy', informed about the date, theme, sessions, venue in Gent, post-conference tour and web site (www.egf2007.com), stimulating the participants to come to Belgium in early September 2007.

4. Arrangements for the 22nd General Meeting: EGF2008

Göran Dalin presented an introduction to the meeting, to be held 9-12 June 2008 in Uppsala, Sweden. The proposed theme of the meeting is 'Biodiversity and animal feed – future challenges for grassland production'. He told that the meeting would be held in Uppsala, 80 km north from Stockholm. The Organizing Committee would be led by him and Nilla Nilsson-Linde would be the general secretary. Dalin drew attention to the web site (www.egf2008.com) and invited everybody to attend the next General Meeting in Sweden. Upon the suggestion of the Executive Committee the Business Meeting accepted with applause the invitation from Sweden to host the 22nd General Meeting.

5. Elections to the Executive Committee

a) President

With reference to the impressive presentation of EGF2008 the President proposed Dalin as new President for the period 2006-2008. This was met by approval from the audience. The new Past President Piñeiro then continued to chair the Business Meeting and thanked Steffen (Switzerland), the resigning Past-President, for his activities in the Executive Committee during the last four years.

b) Regional representatives

The following countries were elected in the Executive Committee to represent their region:

- Central Europe - Hungary
- Western Europe - The Netherlands
- Southern Europe - Portugal

The national grassland societies from these countries are requested to provide the name of their representative to the Federation Secretary as soon as possible. Piñeiro spoke words of thanks to Isselstein (Germany), O'Riordan (Ireland) and Papanastasis (Greece) who represented these regions during 2002-2006.

c) Federation Secretary

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

6. Any other business

- a) Milne, editor of Grass and Forage Science, reported that of 99 papers submitted in 2005 at the end 42 were published. The ration of papers from Europe slightly decreased to 0,45. Of this proportion one fourth of the papers come from the United Kingdom. The impact factor of the journal in 2004 was 0,62. There are plans to further increase the impact factor and to enhance attraction by means of keeping a high rejection factor, including more reviews, accelerating the throughput, offering electronic submission.
- b) Hatch, replacing the chairman of the EGF Working Group on 'Grassland re-sowing and grass-arable rotation', reported that after their meetings in Kiel (2003) and Luzern (2004) the Working Group produced its 2nd report. The group was part of the programme of the EGF2004 conference. A synthesis of northern and western Europe data further promoted the international collaboration.
- c) Verloop reported on behalf of the EGF Working Group on 'Dairy farming systems'. The group submitted a proposal for a COST action which, however, was not selected for support. The proposal will be adjusted and re-submitted.
- d) Elgersma suggested a working group on 'Analytical methods for measuring fatty acids in forage'. People interested in the subject were invited to contact her (anjo.elgersma@wur.nl). The aim of the initiative is to establish a new EGF Working Group.

7. Closing

As new President Dalin thanked the Past President Piñeiro and his team for the tremendous job well done. (The handing over of the EGF flag from Spain to Sweden was postponed till after the end of the meeting).

Piñeiro closed the Business Meeting at 13.45h, wishing everybody a safe journey home.

Zurich, 20 April 2006

Willy Kessler
Federation Secretary