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**Minutes of the Business Meeting held in Luzern, Switzerland on 24 June 2004 during the 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. The President, P. Steffen, was in the chair.**

**1. Opening and Minutes of the Business Meeting held in La Rochelle, France, 29 May 2002.**

The President opened the meeting at 14.00h with a welcome to all participants. The minutes of the Business Meeting of 2002 had been on the notice board for everyone to read. There were no comments.

**2. Report from the Executive Committee, which met in Pleven, Bulgaria on 27 May 2003 and in Luzern, Switzerland on 22 June 2004.**

- a) The Federation Secretary reported that Bosnia-Herzegovina had officially applied to become full member of EGF. The Executive supported the application, whereupon the Business Meeting approved Bosnia-Herzegovina to become the 30<sup>th</sup> full member.
- b) EGF Symposium on 'Optimal forage systems for animal production and the environment' in Bulgaria, 2003.  
Thanks were expressed to Kirilov and colleagues of the Organizing Committee for a successful EGF2003, which was attended by some 180 participants. The Proceedings appeared as volume 8 in the EGF series 'Grassland Science in Europe'. The conclusions of the conference appeared on the web site of the symposium.
- c) Invitation for the 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium: EGF2007.  
Russia has expressed the willingness to organize the EGF Symposium in 2007. This was supported by the Executive Committee.
- e) Invitation for the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting: EGF2008.  
An official invitation for 2008 was received from Sweden. According to the Constitution, the final venue of a General Meeting should be made at a Business Meeting of a previous General Meeting. However, the Executive Committee already supported the invitation from Sweden.
- f) Scientific evaluation of the EGF series 'Grassland Science in Europe'.  
Some participants expressed the concern that our series did not appear in bibliographical databases of which CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International) is the most relevant. The fact is that papers from the EGF series are abstracted but that the editor of CABI decides which are and which are not. Care should be taken that CABI gets the successive volumes for scrutiny.

- g) Establishment of EGF Working Group on 'Dairy farming systems'.  
A group of scientists from 9 different European countries last year discussed the diversity in dairy farming and the implementation of European and national legislation. This group had requested to operate as a working group under the umbrella of EGF. The Executive Committee supported this initiative. The Working Group will report every General Meeting.
- h) 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.
- i) Albania and Macedonia to swap places in EGF regions  
Because Albania is agriculturally closer to Southern Europe and Macedonia closer to the South Eastern Europe, the Executive Committee proposed to fit the two countries into the EGF regions of Southern and South Eastern Europe, respectively. This was approved by the Business Meeting.
- j) Honorary Life Presidents  
For the record in these minutes, although this point was not raised during the Business Meeting but at the Extraordinary Meeting during the Conference Dinner of 23 May 2004: J. Nösberger (Switzerland) and W.H. Prins (The Netherlands) were elected as Honorary Life Presidents.

### **3. Report on the preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> symposium: EGF2005**

Selge, chairman of the forthcoming symposium on 'Integrating biodiversity and efficient grassland farming', informed about theme, sessions, venue in Tartu, pre-conference tour and web site ([www.egf2005.ee](http://www.egf2005.ee)), stimulating the participants to come to Estonia in August 2005.

### **4. Arrangements for the 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting: EGF2006.**

Piñeiro presented an introduction to the meeting, to be held 3-6 April 2006 in Badajoz, Spain. The proposed theme of the meeting is 'Sustainable grassland productivity'. He told that the meeting would be held in the heart of the *Dehesa*, a typical example of a sustainable pastoral ecosystem. The Organizing Committee would be led by Prof. Olea. Piñeiro drew attention to the web site ([www.sepastos.es/egf2006](http://www.sepastos.es/egf2006)) and invited everybody to attend the next General Meeting in Spain. Upon the suggestion of the Executive Committee the Business Meeting accepted with applause the invitation from Spain to host the 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting.

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

- a) President  
The Federation Secretary was in the Chair during this item. After mentioning the requirements for a good president of EGF he proposed Piñeiro as new President for the period 2004-2006. This was met by approval from the audience. Past President Steffen then continued to chair the Business Meeting.

b) Regional representatives

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

Northern Europe - Norway

North Eastern Europe - Latvia

Eastern Europe - Romania

South Eastern Europe - Bosnia-Herzegovina

The national grassland societies from these countries are requested to provide the name of their representative to the Federation Secretary as soon as possible. Steffen spoke words of thanks to Soegaard (Denmark), Gutauskas (Lithuania), Blagoveschensky (Russia) and Vidrih (Slovenia) who represented these regions during 2002-2004.

c) Federation Secretary

After nearly 20 years as Federation Secretary Prins retired from this post. Steffen referred to the words of thanks already spoken yesterday at the Conference Dinner. The Executive Committee proposed Kessler (Switzerland) as his successor, which was met by applause.

## 6. Any other business

- a) Milne, editor of Grass and Forage Science, reported that this official journal of EGF became more international in the last two years. He indicated that the whole processing of the manuscripts would become electronic by the end of the year.
- b) Wilkins spoke as chairman of the Scientific Committee of the International Grassland Congress to be held in 2005 in Ireland and UK. The main meeting would be in Dublin, to be followed by 5 satellite meetings, the one in Cork on 'Utilisation of grazed grass in temperate animal systems' in co-operation with EGF. He invited everybody to attend.
- c) Taube, chairman of the EGF Working Group on 'Grassland re-sowing and grass-arable rotation' reported that the meeting of the Working Group in Kiel in 2003 produced its 2<sup>nd</sup> report. The Working Group had been able to be part of the programme of the present EGF conference. He informed that satellite working groups were being established in eastern and southern Europe.

## 6. Closing

Past President Steffen handed the EGF flag from Switzerland to Spain, whereupon President Piñeiro thanked Steffen for the job well done.

Steffen closed the Business Meeting at 15.00h, wishing everybody a safe journey home.

Wageningen, 3 July 2004

Willem H. Prins  
Federation Secretary