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) 18th EGF Symposium 2015
The Committee accepted the proposal for the 18th EGF Symposium 2015 on ‘Grassland and forages in high output dairy farming systems’ to be held in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

b) 26th EGF General Meeting 2016
The proposal for holding the 26th EGF General Meeting 2016 in Trondheim, Norway, was accepted.

c) 19th EGF Symposium in 2017
Italy has expressed the willingness to organise the 19th EGF Symposium in 2017. The Executive Committee was happy to support this offer.

d) Invitation for the 27th EGF General Meeting 2018
The EGF got an official invitation for 2018 by Ireland to host the 27th 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 18th 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, 15th-17th of June 2015, and to submit abstracts before the 17th of November 2014.

5. Arrangements for the 26th EGF General Meeting 2016 proposed to be held in Norway

Nesheim presented the concept for the 26th EGF General Meeting, to be held 5th-8th 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 Dasselaar (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 25th 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.

Willy Kessler
Zurich, 25 November 2014

Federation Secretary