

**EGF Business Meeting, Trondheim (Norway)
8 September 2016, 11:00-12:00, Congress Venue**

President Lars Nesheim was in the chair

Minutes

1. Opening

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

2. Progress report on the 19th EGF Symposium on ‘Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal regions: major drivers and future scenarios’ to be held in Sardinia/Italy in 2017

Porqueddu, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. He invited everybody to attend the next EGF Symposium at Alghero, Sardinia/Italy, 7th-10th of May 2017.

3. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting in Aberystwyth (Wales), 11 September 2014

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

4. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 16 June 2015 (Wageningen, The Netherlands) and 6 September 2016 (Trondheim, Norway)

The *Executive Committee* dealt with the following items:

a) 19th EGF Symposium 2017

The *Committee* accepted the programme proposal for the 19th EGF Symposium 2017 on ‘Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal regions: major drivers and future scenarios’ to be held in Alghero, Sardinia/Italy.

b) 27th EGF General Meeting 2018

The *Committee* further accepted the proposal for holding the 27th EGF General Meeting 2018 in Cork, Ireland.

c) 20th EGF Symposium in 2019

Switzerland has expressed the willingness to organise the 20th EGF Symposium in 2019. The *Executive Committee* was happy to support the joint offer with the EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section for which this will be the 33th Section Meeting.

d) Invitation for the 28th EGF General Meeting 2020

The EGF got an official invitation for 2020 by Finland to host the 28th 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 16'860.24 or EUR 15'504.77, respectively (1 EUR = 1.0874 CHF by 31 December 2015).

f) EGF Strategy

Survey 2016 on current and future needs by EGF member countries

A big majority of the member countries supports the current system, appreciates the current offers and services and the big effort of all involved people who do their work on a voluntary basis.

Grassland Science in Europe

The *Executive Committee* decided to reduce the length for offered papers for publication in the proceedings from three pages to one page for several reasons:

- Lower risk for pre-publishing results
- Less effort needed for paper review
- Thinner book – lower costs

A spontaneous opinion poll by the *Federation Secretary* among the participants in the Business Meeting instead of a discussion on this decision revealed the following picture:

- A large majority wants to keep the paper length at three pages
- About half the people would like Grassland Science in Europe to be ISI indexed

Future organisation and functioning of EGF

The *Executive Committee* discussed the possibilities for extending services, increasing visibility/influence. Going to a more professional society would mean changing the system of volunteers to professionals, from low cost to an expensive administrative system.

➔ The discussions on all these issues will have to be continued next year.

5. Arrangements for the 27th EGF General Meeting 2018 proposed to hold in Ireland

O'Donovan presented the concept for the 27th EGF General Meeting, to hold 17th-21st June 2018 in Cork, Ireland. The proposed theme of the meeting is 'Sustainable Meat and Milk Production from Grasslands'. He drew attention to the distributed bookmark and the website and invited everybody to attend the EGF General Meeting 2018 in Ireland. The meeting accepted the invitation with applause.

6. Elections to the Executive Committee

a) President

O'Mara (Ireland) is proposed as the new EGF President for the period 2016-2018, which was approved by the audience. The EGF flag is passed on from Norway to Ireland. Past President *Nesheim* 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 – Sweden
- North Eastern Europe – Lithuania
- Eastern Europe – Russia
- South Eastern Europe – Slovenia

The President thanked *Seppänen* (Finland), *Loit* (Estonia), *Kirilov* (Bulgaria) and *Alibegovic-Grbic* (Bosnia/Herzegovina) for having represented these regions during 2012-2016.

c) Federation Secretary

Kessler (Switzerland) was re-elected for another term of two years.

7. Reports

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

The *Federation Secretary* reported on behalf of *Hopkins*:

- The number of submissions continued to increase in 2015 (275 vs. 223 in 2014)
- Of the 275 submitted papers in 2015 eventually (i.e. 20 %) were accepted
- The current page budget allows 60-65 papers per year
- Papers are online soon after acceptance, but the delay before print is three issues
- Review papers are welcome – such papers generally receive many citations
- 2-year ISI Impact Factor value 2015 dropped from 1.9 in 2014 to 1.62 in 2015

b) Progress report from the EGF Working Groups

Grassland re-sowing and grass-arable rotation (*Taube*, Germany)

Dairy farming systems (*Aarts*, The Netherlands)

- Joint workshop on «Optimizing Resource Management for Sustainability», 14 June 2015, Wageningen, The Netherlands, organised by above groups
- 30 people attended
- Results of research exchanged, ideas how to improve efficiency of resource utilisation discussed
- *Aarts* retired on 25 Aug 2016; working group will reconsider its activities and organisation

Grazing (*Van den Pol-van Dassel*, The Netherlands)

5th Meeting in Trondheim, Norway, 4 Sept 2016 on “Grazing in a high-tech world”; the following points were dealt with:

- State-of-the-art
- Our high-tech world
- High-tech methods
- How to reach (young) farmers in a high-tech world?
- Semi-natural grasslands, chaired by *Tonn* (Germany)

More than 60 people attended; the outcome will be published on the EGF website

There were no activities in the other EGF Working Groups

8. Any other business

O'Donovan, on behalf of the new EGF president, thanked *Nesheim* and the Norwegian organising committee for hosting this 26th EGF General Meeting in Trondheim, Norway. We all very much appreciated the great work, the perfect organisation and warm hospitality.

9. Closing

Nesheim closed the Business Meeting at 11:45.

Zurich, 12 October 2016

Willy Kessler
Federation Secretary