

EGF Business Meeting, Cork (Ireland)

21 June 2018, 11:30-12:30, Congress Venue (Estuary Suite)

President Frank O'Mara was in the chair

Minutes

1. Opening

The *President* opened the meeting at 11:30 with a welcome to all participants.

2. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting in Trondheim (Norway), 8 September 2016

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 9 May 2017 (Alghero, Sardinia/Italy) and 18 June 2018 (Cork, Ireland)

The *Executive Committee* dealt with the following items:

a) Grassland Science in Europe

The length of a single paper in the proceedings should continue to be three pages.

b) EGF-Eucarpia Joint Symposium 2019

The *Committee* accepted the programme proposal for the EGF-Eucarpia Joint Symposium on 'Improving sown grasslands through breeding and management' to be held in Zurich, Switzerland in 2019.

c) 28th EGF General Meeting 2020

The *Committee* further accepted the proposal for holding the 28th EGF General Meeting 2020 in Helsinki, Finland.

d) 21st EGF Symposium in 2021

Germany has expressed the willingness to organise the 21th EGF Symposium in 2021. The *Executive Committee* was happy to support the offer and to give green light for further planning.

e) Invitation for the 29th EGF General Meeting 2022

The EGF got an official invitation for 2022 by France to host the 29th EGF General Meeting. The *Executive Committee* appreciated the invitation and encouraged the French colleagues to go on with planning.

f) Upcoming International Grassland Congresses

The International Grassland Congress (IGC) took place for the first time in Leipzig (Germany) in 1927. IGC is now looking for a European host for the 100th anniversary in 2027. Bids for IGC 2027 from European countries are welcome.

g) EGF Fund

The Fund is in a healthy state. The total assets on 31-12-2017 amounted CHF 17'638.68 or EUR 15'073.45, respectively (1 EUR = 1.17015 CHF by 31 December 2017).

h) EGF Strategy: EGF after 2021 – How to run our Federation in the future?

- The Executive Committee wants clarity by 2021.
- A worked-out view must be present by next year.
- This issue shall be addressed by a committee composed as follows:
 - *O'Mara* (Ireland), EGF Past President (Chair)
 - *Isselstein* (Germany)
 - *Lüscher* (Switzerland)
 - *Peyraud* (France)
 - *Van den Pol-van Dassel* (The Netherlands)

4. Progress report on the EGF-Eucarpia Joint Symposium on 'Improving sown grasslands through breeding and management' to be held in Zurich, Switzerland in 2019

Lüscher, the Co-Chair of the Organising Committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. He invited everybody to attend the EGF-Eucarpia Joint Symposium at Zurich, Switzerland, 24th-27th of June 2019.

5. Arrangements for the 28th EGF General Meeting 2020 proposed to be held in Finland

Seppänen presented the concept for the 28th EGF General Meeting, 22th-26th June 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. The proposed theme of the meeting is 'Meeting the future demands for grassland production'. She invited everybody to attend the EGF General Meeting 2020 in Finland. The meeting responded with approval.

6. Joint IGC/IRC Congress in Kenya, 25-30 October 2020

Smith (USA), Chair of the International Grassland Congress Continuing Committee, invited the participants in the Business Meeting to attend the Joint XXIV International Grassland/XI International Rangeland Congress in Nairobi (Kenya), to be held 25th-30th October 2010. The theme of the congress is 'Sustainable Use of Grassland/Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods'.

7. New EGF members; elections to the Executive Committee

a) New EGF member

Luxembourg applied for a full membership of EGF and can fulfil the requirements for it. The Business Meeting welcomes the new member with applause.

b) President

Seppänen (Finland) is proposed as the new EGF President for the period 2018-2020, which was approved by the audience. The EGF flag will be passed on from Ireland to Finland during the Closing Ceremony. Past President *O'Mara* continued to chair the Business Meeting.

c) Regional representatives

The following countries were elected in the Executive Committee and approved by the EGF Business Meeting to represent their region:

- Central Europe – Austria
- Western Europe – France
- Southern Europe – Greece

The President thanked *Reidy* (Switzerland), *De Vlieghe* (Belgium) and *Porqueddu* (Italy) for having represented these regions during 2014-2018.

d) Federation Secretary

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

8. Reports (Grass and Forage Science, EGF Working Groups)

a) Report by the editors of Grass and Forage Science (*Elgersma*, The Netherlands)

Grass and Forage Science co-edited by *Kevin Smith* and *Anjo Elgersma* (since 2018 as successor to *Alan Hopkins*) is a major English language journal that publishes the results of research and development in all aspects of grass and forage production, management and utilization and reviews of the state of knowledge on relevant topics.

The new co-editor focused on the following main concerns:

- International editorial team
- High quality (replications, statistics)
- Aim to improve the impact factor
- Invitation to offer your novel findings to *Grass and Forage Science*

b) Progress report from the EGF Working Groups

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

The 6th Meeting of the EGF Working Group Grazing of Sunday 17th June 2018 on “Maximising grazing in ruminant production systems” which took place at Teagasc, Moorepark, attracted more than 100 participants from 18 countries.

The aim was to exchange knowledge on all aspects of grazing and networking.

The following topics were discussed:

- Support of grazing (do we need it and how could it be organised?)
- Methods to maximise grazing (drivers, barriers, support for all ecosystem services)
- In-field experience of estimating pre- and post-grazing covers, feed wedge, pasture allowance and infrastructure

More than 60 persons had an active role: chair discussion group, reporter, presenter, in-field group leader

→ Information will be available on www.europeangrassland.org

Sensing in grassland and forage science & practice (Chair: *Wachendorf*, Germany; report by *Pötsch*, Austria)

The 2nd Meeting of the youngest EGF Working Group Sensing, which took place on Sunday 17th June 2018 at the conference venue in Cork attracted 60 participants. The main programme items were:

- Keynote address on "The benefits of sensors in grassland science" by Möckel and Hopkins
- Working/discussion groups on:
 - Major goals of RS-research in grasslands
 - Sensors/platforms used
 - Most promising sensors/platforms for the future
 - Major problems/obstacles for RS in grasslands

Outcome:

- 75% of the participants were grassland researchers with a focus/interest in remote sensing
- Only 25% were remote sensing specialists with a focus/interest in grassland
- There is need of more communication (glossary), collaboration, exchange of knowledge
- Results of discussion groups will available on www.europeangrassland.org

9. Any other business

Seppänen (Finland), the new EGF president, thanked *O'Mara* and the Irish organising committee for hosting this 27th EGF General Meeting in Cork, Ireland. We all very much appreciated the great work, the perfect organisation and warm hospitality. We were all impressed of the Irish enthusiasm for the grassland and their achievements.

10. Closing

O'Mara closed the Business Meeting at 12:30.

Zurich, 1 August 2018

Willy Kessler
Federation Secretary