



EUROPEAN NURSERYSTOCK ASSOCIATION

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ENA Secretaries Meeting

Brussels | FEPEX – EUCOFEL office | 38, rue de la Loi / Wetstraat (*) 4th floor
10h15 Tuesday 12th December 2017 (till 13h15)

Minutes of the **ENA Secretaries Meeting** held at 10h15 on Tuesday **12th December 2017** at the FEPEX – EUCOFEL office, 38, rue de la Loi – Wetstraat 4th floor, **Brussels**.

Present:

Emmanuelle Bougault (FR), Boyana Vasileva (BG), Alba Ridao-Bouloumié (ES), Henning Roed (DK), Markus Guhl (DE), Miet Poppe (BE), Val Farrell (IE), Julia Peters (DE), David Brown (UK), Marc Van Hulle (BE – Legislation WG Chairman) and Josep M. Pagès (ENA Secretary General -*SG in the text*-).

1. President's Welcome.

SG welcomed the Secretaries and apologised for the absence of the President, whose flight was cancelled due to weather conditions.

2. Apologies for absence.

Nikos Thymakis (GR), Edoardo Sciutti (IT), Jyri Uimonen (FI), Ronny Berdinesen (NO), Helma Hoff (NL), Stanislav Dontsov (UA), Harm Horlings (NL), Leon Smet (NL – Promotion WG Chairman), Maja Persson (SE), Caroline Föllmi (CH), Elaine M. Farrell (IE), and Tim Edwards (UK – President) had sent apologies.

3. Adoption of Agenda.

The agenda was agreed on without changes.

4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous Secretaries meeting held on 30th May 2017.

The minutes were agreed on.

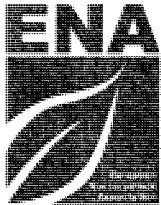
5. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

6. Promotion Working Group: "Green Cities" project 2018-2020.

SG informed the participants of the following:

- the Promotion Project 'Green Cities' was at the end of the Grant Preparation with CHAFEA and that it was ready to be signed by ENA's President.
- A kick-off meeting with CHAFEA was scheduled for the 18th January 2018 at CHAFEA offices.
- The budget of the entire project 2018-2020 was 2,1 M€ and the grant from CHAFEA will be 1,7M€.
- ENA had incurred some costs (i.e. financial audit, extra-meetings) and SG informed that those extra costs would be charged to the Promotion Project Participants only.
- The pre-financing (340.000€) was possible, but a Bank Guarantee was required by CHAFEA.



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A meeting, with Project Participants only, was scheduled to be held after the Secretaries meeting and the discussion was going to be produced in that meeting.

7. Environmental and sustainable certifications and labels.

Due to the absence of Harm Horlings (Certifications and Labels WG Chairman) -because of the bad road conditions that didn't let him arrive at the meeting- SG asked around the table the opinion about the proposal drafted by MPS and previously sent out. ES and DE didn't see the need of having it. NL (LTO) had sent a message against having an umbrella certification. BE defended having a system, although MPS is already the most used sustainability certification. FR mostly disagreed, as MPS is already transnational. IE defended that there is a free market and certifications were not in high demand there. BG also explained that no environmental certifications were required or made in their country. DK considered that it was too big of a project for ENA. UK informed that there was little appetite for it.

SG informed that a specialist from MPS had been invited to attend the GA and it was agreed on allocating 15 minutes in the GA for this discussion and to make a final decision. Secretaries asked to know the benefits and the costs and how the equivalencies would work, before the GA; they also pointed out that extra costs to nurserymen should be avoided.

8. EU Legislation Working Group:

a. IAS Invasive Alien Plants

DE explained their lobbying actions with MEP Mr Florenz, after the last Secretaries Meeting, that they demanded a compensation plan for the plants existing in nurseries when declared IAS and they proposed that ENA should lobby EC and EP on having this compensation. BE agreed on asking for a compensation. DK had been lobbying their own government as they have a new legislation going on and they had lobbied for a compensation too; they will have a *Rosa rugosa* extension period to sell it, probably 1 or 2 years. DE insisted to lobby asking for a compensation.

SG:

- Informed of the recent meeting of Copa-Cogeca with Commissioner Mr Vella, who seems open to hearing the sector;
- Informed about the Dutch report regarding some varieties of *Pennisetum* that are now classified under *Pennisetum advena* instead of *P. setaceum* and, therefore, not considered as IAS;
- Informed that ENA applied for a position in the European Commission's Working Group on Invasive Alien Species and that Dr Marco Hoffman was nominated as the ENA representative
- Reminded the secretaries that an open consultation on the EU Regulation with regard to IAS risk assessments.

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It was pointed out that economic aspects were very difficult to evaluate, although our industry may have more information than the EC. BE recommended to think about alternatives to IAS. DK agreed, but defended that our sector would need some time to adjust.

It was agreed on **writing to the EC and EP asking for compensation.**

b. EU Plant Health Regulation

SG informed that:

- ENA is Member of the EC Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health and that he participated in the Plenary meeting held on 22-11-2017.
- Regarding the Plant Passport Format Regulation, ENA and many organisations had sent their feedback. The main issue was the requirement to include -in the Passport label- the registration number of the initial professional operator. This requirement was removed.
- Regarding the EU Plant Health Law, the EC is working on the High-Risk Plants and the Priority Pests.
- The EC wanted to begin a Plant Health Awareness campaign and ENA will be invited to participate.
- ENA comments to the Consultation on Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQPs) were sent to EPPO: one on *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* and an additional note on PPV Plum Pox Virus -suggested by Germany-.
- ENA was ready to send feedback to the Commission Implementing Directive on requirements for propagating material against *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, asking that Member States shall inform all relevant professional operators, through publication on the internet, of the appropriate preventive treatments, as proposed by the UK.

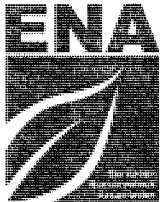
Secretaries agreed on all actions.

c. *Xylella fastidiosa*

SG informed that no reply had been received to the letter sent to the EC in July, as agreed by the GA. SG summarized his recent participation in the *Xylella* Conference in Mallorca, where he emphasized the need for an on-site testing for *Xylella*. Technically it is possible, although the accuracy of the results would be lower than the laboratory tests. There was a device presented there (LAMP) and SG was also approached by a researcher from WUR (NL) asking for funding to produce a device. SG asked the Secretaries if ENA should consider funding some research, however, and due to our limited possibilities, it was considered better to continue giving our formal support to scientists that may require it.

SG also summarized the idea of creating a *Xylella-free* extra certification for plant propagation material, structured as a biosecurity protocol, a proposal initiated by NL (Naktuinbouw) and IT (CIVI) within the XFactors project. Because in the UK a new Plant Health Scheme is also being implemented, they offered to give a presentation of their protocol at the next GA meeting.

It was agreed on asking ENA members' opinion on this project and if they want to receive additional information at the next GA meeting.



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Secretaries agreed that information is crucial to make nurseries and everyone aware of the risks and dangers of this disease and they reported that information activities were in place in their countries. DE volunteered to send their information and prevention guidelines and IE complained that some imported plants were not carrying the proper papers.

Not related to *Xylella*, it was mentioned that an outbreak of *Anoplophora* had been detected in Tuscany and that imports from that region were controlled.

As DE and ES are discussing compensation for nurseries affected by *Xylella*, it was agreed on sharing the proposals made in the different countries.

d. Plant Protection Products

SG informed that a general consultation (REFIT -to make EU law simpler and less costly-) on Plant Protection Products is ongoing and advised organisations to react to it until 31st December and to share it with the nurserymen asking them to reply by 12th February 2018. SG will send a reminder to all.

e. EU Fertilizers Draft Regulation.

SG informed that the amendment defended by Fertilizers Europe went into the new version of the Regulation and, therefore, it should not pose a threat to the use of Controlled Release Fertilizers in the EU.

f. Notice to breeders subject to the Union legislation on the marketing of seeds and other propagating material.

SG reminded that the information was sent to all members. UK informed that this issue is going to be included in the final BREXIT agreement. It was agreed that no further discussion was necessary.

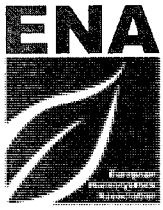
9. New member application (Turkey)

SG informed that an application from the Turkish organisation SUSBIR had been received. It was agreed on inviting them to the next General Assembly meeting and to ask them to make a presentation of the Turkish nursery sector. After analysing the application, it was agreed that Turkey seems to be a large production country and, therefore, entitled to have 2 votes in the GA and the higher membership fee. It was agreed on sharing the application form with all ENA members and then the GA will vote on their membership.

10. Memorandum of understanding proposed by Entente-Florale (AEFP - Association Européenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage).

Miet Poppe (BE), explained that the chairman of the AEFP is one of their organisation members and that the Memorandum of Understanding is just a mutual recognition proposal. Entente-Florale organises a competition of the most beautiful villages in Europe and they propose to share information

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between us. It was agreed on sharing this information with the Promotion WG and to propose to the GA to vote on it.

11. European Green City Year 2020 concept (ELCA proposal)

As presented to the GA in the last meeting, ELCA is working on the Green City Year 2020 concept, and the Finnish organization of Green Industries is also lobbying for it.

BG informed that they went to their Ministries of Agriculture and Presidency to put this issue on the EU agenda (BG takes up the rotating presidency of the EU Council in January 2018).

It was agreed on informing the GA and on looking for a connection with the Promotion Project.

FR reminded that a formal convention for green cities in Europe exists (with IFLA, Val'hor, Grüne Stadt, ELCA, etc) and it was suggested to approach them, as it would show the unity of the green industry and it might also be useful for the Promotion project. DE and DK informed that they also have a close connection with their landscape contractors' associations and they suggested to have a good relationship with them in all countries and at the European level. All Secretaries agreed that ENA's role might be to share their good experiences at the European level.

It was agreed on sharing this idea with Mr Leon Smet, Chairman of the Promotion WG.

12. Evaluation of the cooperation with Flormart (Padova Fiere)

SG recalled that ENA had an informal meeting in Padova; a good one but mostly a repetition of what had been discussed at the General Assembly meeting. The whole event was well organised by Flormart, and the exhibitors were also satisfied as the Italian market is recovering. It was agreed on keeping in touch with Flormart.

13. ENA Summer meeting 2018 – United Kingdom. *To agree on the draft program.*

UK presented the proposal for the Summer Meeting: delegates will arrive on Tuesday 26th of June 2018, GA meeting on the 27th, visits on the 28th and 29th to garden centres, nurseries, RHS Wisley and, on Saturday the 30th, to Eden Project. They were looking at the Oxford area, where more convenient airports are located, and negotiating with the hotels. They planned to have the final program in a short term.

14. Future of ENA (open discussion)

SG asked the Secretaries how they think we should proceed to discuss the future of ENA, to achieve more, as proposed at the GA. Secretaries were satisfied with the work done by ENA and they valued the communication and contact with EC and EP.

A proposal was made: to have an annual ENA reception in Brussels, inviting MEP and EC representatives. It would have a low cost for ENA, just the room and the lunch. It was agreed on putting this proposal forward to the GA.

ES mentioned that CAP was something important to follow and DE asked to lobby to have the container plants back in the CAP payments.

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15. Date of Next Secretaries Meeting.

It was agreed on receiving a presentation from Stanislav Dontsov (UA) at the next GA about the best practices to enter the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan plant markets.

The next Secretaries meeting will be scheduled in spring, probably in May 2018.

16. AOB

- a. SG reminded all participants to send their country statistics update.
- b. SG revealed that ENA and EFNA SGs are fluently exchanging information and it was decided to ask the GA to formally agree on this cooperation.
- c. DE informed that the ENA reception at IPM-Essen was prepared for the evening before the next GA meeting and offered to send additional invitations (interested should contact ENA). DE also reported that IPM will support ENA until 2021 according to the last agreement IPM-BdB. Finally, it was agreed on having an ENA Secretaries dinner after the mentioned Reception.

SG thanked Alba Ridao-Bouloumié (ES) and her organisations (Fepex and Eucofel) for the meeting room and for the lunch preparation. To finish, SG thanked all Secretaries for their participation wishing them a safe trip back home and adjourned the meeting at 13h15.