



EUROPEAN NURSEYSTOCK ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the **ENA Secretaries Meeting** held at 10h30 on Monday 27th May 2019 at EUCOFEL office, 38, rue de la Loi / Wetstraat, 4th floor, Brussels.

Present:

Carmelo Torres (FEPEX - Spain), Niamh Brennan (IFA - Ireland), Edoardo Sciutti (ANVE - Italy), Miet Poppe (AVBS - Belgium), Lucien Verschoren (AVBS - Belgium), Markus Guhl (BdB - Germany), Romain Manceau (Val'hor - France), Henk Raaijmakers (LTO – the Netherlands - ENA Vice-President), Jan-Dieter Bruns (BdB - Germany - ENA President) and Josep M. Pagès (ENA Secretary General -SG in the text-).

1. President's Welcome.

President Bruns welcomed the Secretaries in such a special day, just after the European elections. He showed optimism for the industry as the season was quite good in most of Europe, and the weather it's also been good for the landscaping, although not so good for garden centres.

2. Apologies for absence.

Harm Horlings (ANTHOS - Netherlands, Certifications and Labels WG Chairman), Leon Smet (Anthos – Netherlands, Promotion WG Chairman), Alba Ridao-Boulumié (ES), Caroline Föllmi (CH), Nikos Thymakis (GR), Tim Edwards (UK), Grzegorz Falkowski (PL), Maja Persson (SE), Jyri Uimonen (FI), Luis Martín (ES) and Boyana Vasileva (BG) had sent apologies.

3. Adoption of the Agenda.

The agenda was agreed on without changes.

4. Minutes: approval of the minutes of the previous Secretaries meeting held on 3 December 2018.

The minutes were agreed on.

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

Regarding 'Sustainability', it was explained that Harm Horlings couldn't participate in this meeting and that he is working on a new proposal for the GA.

It was agreed on adding this item to the next GA meeting.

Regarding the H2020 projects, the participants were informed that SAFE (on plant health) and Grow4Green (to share information on growing plants for green infrastructure) were rejected. Grow4Green project scored 10 out of 12, but the call is very competitive. A shortcoming of the proposal is, apparently, that it was not well enough addressed to nurseries. As most participants in the project are considering improving the proposal and submitting it again, more ENA and its members involvement will be necessary, if it's possible and of the interest to ENA members. **It was agreed on presenting a Grow4Green proposition to be discussed by the General Assembly.**



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6. EU Legislation Working Group:

a. *Xylella*

VSPP: the Vice-president reminded how this private certification works (a Certification on top of the official controls) and he anticipated that XF-ACTORS is going to accept the certification for all areas free from *Xylella* and Demarcated Areas. A few nurseries are going to test the certification system that has the aim to cover additional pests in the future.

ANVE, a member of the WG, agrees with the XF-ACTORS proposal, and they informed that in Italy, extra-controls to detect *Popillia* and *Anoplophora* were under development as well, although without a certification.

German nurseries in Oldenburg and Schleswig-Holstein are making use of private detection services with trained dogs to detect *Anoplophora*, to be sure that they have the plants free from this pest.

Belgian nurseries request to perform a quick test to detect *Xylella* presence, in host plants coming from infected countries.

It was agreed on sharing information about AGDIA rapid tests with all ENA members.

Regarding the outbreak in Belgium, their analysis showed a low level of infection in the olive trees imported from Spain. *Xylella* was not found in the Spanish nurseries of origin. Factual information received from the Spanish and Belgian associations had been shared with all ENA members and, so far, no additional complaints regarding communications had been received.

The concerns of the British market about importing plants from the continent, and their interest on having quarantine at the entrance in the UK, were mentioned.

An insurance company in Germany is offering a policy to cover some quarantine risks in the nurseries (including *Xylella* and *Anoplophora*), although the premium is quite high (€ 70.000 a year to insure an amount of € 5 million).

In Italy, like in the Netherlands, there are insurance to cover weather risks. There is a pilot project in Italy to extend the risks coverage to quarantine pests, co-financed by the EU (CAP): i.e. to insure € 56 million costs around € 1 million (the premium is adjusted to the risks in each region), although the nurseries pay much less because the subsidy is 70%. Currently, 20 Italian nurseries are in this pilot project, and ANVE is involved in this private insurance policy design.

It was concluded that insurance, although expensive, is a good option.

b. Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031:

The President explained that nurseries are including traceability in their computer systems and that the scheme will also be implemented in Switzerland, where the nurseries are concerned.

i. practical implementation in each country

NL: Difficult for trading companies and quite simple for growers. A photo-label will be commonly used with the Plant Passport behind the label. If a customer wants a



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plant, they will attach one label to the plant; if it's a tray, also one label; if it's a layer in a container, one printed label as well; or even one label in one truck.

The Passport label may include up to 7 different plant names [A].

BE: there is not a maximum number of species to be included on one plant passport [A].

IT: nurseries have not received enough information from their government.

DE: due to the new proposal recently agreed on by the EC regarding the traceability code [C] (draft not yet published) BdB has to change the traceability software they are developing.

FR nurseries also have many concerns on the practical use of Plant Passport, like where to attach the label.

It was also highlighted:

- Difficulties in implementing traceability in trade companies.
- Internal traceability in garden centres is not needed, only within production nurseries and wholesalers.
- Different interpretations of the minimum trade unit may appear in different countries.
- Homogeneity of the lots might be interpreted differently in different places, although it is suggested to adapt the interpretation to each nursery's risks.

SG explained that, according to EC officers, Plant Passport is somehow ambiguous in the Regulation to let each country adapt to its circumstances. The Vice-president emphasised that **each organisation must influence the NPPO in their country to adapt the Regulation to make it workable for the nurseries.**

A great concern is the 'country of origin' [D], also in Switzerland.

SG informed that the draft of a last piece of legislation regarding Plant Passport will be published in June, and we'll have four weeks to send the feedback to the EC.

Surf

ii. list of priority pests, quarantine pests, RNQP

SG also mentioned that EC is drafting many different pieces of legislation, including priority pests, quarantine pests and RNQP (regulated non-quarantine pests), that will be published before the summer break.

It was agreed on informing ENA members as soon as the drafts are available, giving them 2 weeks to react and send their comments to ENA, allowing 2 more weeks to agree on a common proposal that will be sent to the EC.



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7. ENA Articles of Association and Domestic Regulations: exchange of views on changing the ENA rules to accept more than one organisation from each country as a member.

The President gave details of the request received from AVI –a new association of nurseries in Italy, different from our Italian member ANVE– to become a member of ENA. Only the Netherlands has two different members in ENA from the same country because one is a traders' organisation and the other is a growers' organisation, although they work together in a council of nurseries and ENA.

The Italian delegate explained that ANVE had been a national association since its foundation, and AVI was the Pistoia province association that recently enlarged its territorial scope. He also stated that in Italy they are both cooperating in some issues, like legislation, and that their boards are in contact.

It was agreed that the ENA President will send a letter to AVI, explaining that their request was discussed in the meeting, and that it was decided on asking AVI to contact ANVE to discuss and agree how to participate together in ENA.

8. "Green Cities" promotion project.

a. Update on the current project

SG informed that year 1 technical and financial reports were finished, and all had been approved by CHAFEA (EC). The Y1 grant (€ 453.985,48) had been received by ENA and the financial process to return the loans received from the participants had begun. To fund the Y2 overhead and common expenses, the WG had agreed to keep one of the Y1 loans in the ENA bank account. For Y2, the WG had agreed on improving the website, and new activities are ongoing in each country.

b. New call

ENA had heard the interest from many countries (current participants BE, BG, DK, FR, DE, NL, UK, and new participants CZ, IE, PL, RS, UA, TR) to join the new call (2021-2023). The application must be prepared in 2019 to be submitted in early 2020.

It was agreed on reminding all other ENA members that they may join the new project ENA will prepare.

Regarding the proposal preparation process, ENA and the participants will have to decide the budget goal (per country and per year), the structure (one beneficiary or a consortium), who and how to write the application and, finally, to ask the involvement of ENA General Assembly. A meeting for all interested participants was scheduled for the day before the next General Assembly in Kyiv. President and Vice-president argued in favour of adding a suitable budget for ENA in the financial plan of the next project.

9. German new Packaging act "Verpack G".

The German delegate explained that this act applies only to the retail sector, and answered the questions received:

- Is the tax on all kinds of plastic? Yes.
- Is it only the pot-plastic or also the foil wrapped around containers? All of them.



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- How about recycling plastic and bio plastic? There is no difference.
- How will it be organized? How to register plastic import/export? The companies have to register with one of the system providers (<https://www.interseroh.de/> <https://www.landbell.de/> <https://www.gruener-punkt.de/>)
- Who has to register? The owner of the plants. However, a legal discussion is ongoing in NL, because a German nursery may buy plants from a Dutch nursery and, although the plants are the responsibility of the buyer after loading the stock in the Netherlands, from the legal point of view, the owner of the plants may still be the Dutch company if the invoice had not been fully paid.
- Is it only applicable to B2C business (sales to private consumers)? Yes, only when the product is intended to private consumers, only for the retail market. It was not clear if a nursery from abroad must register when selling directly to a garden centre, although when selling to a nursery, it will be the responsibility of the German nursery. It does not concern the landscape market.
- Is going to be a tax in all European countries?

It is unknown; it seems each country is applying different systems.

In NL and BE, everything is recycled. In NL, containers are considered part of the product, not packaging, therefore, they are not paying a fee. Very small companies, like most nurseries, don't have to pay for the plastics recycling but, over a certain limit, they must pay a fee.

As it is important to have the exact rules, Markus Guhl volunteered to ask the German Trade association for additional details and recommendations, and to share the information with ENA members.

The plastic reduction is an important sustainability issue, and it was discussed at a recent event organised by AIPH. Peat reduction regulations might come as well, because legislation on sustainability and climate change is becoming common in many countries. **It was agreed that it's important to share the information to have the nurseries ready, and to contact the European organisation of growing media asking for further information.**

10. "European Umbrella Green Sector" organisation.

SG
The President cited many European Green Sector organisations (ELCA, IFLA, WUP, EILO, EFGRW) and was of the opinion that it would be good to do something together. SG explained the outcome of the first meeting, convened by ELCA in May with these organisations, in order to explore the options to cooperate. The aim would be to share information, not to create a new structure, to promote the European Green Year 2020 -although it might be delayed for a year-, to implement together an activity in the European Green Week 2020 (a series of top-level conferences held every spring in Brussels), and to keep our organisations in close contact.

It was agreed that cooperation with all these organisations would be good for lobbying or even for promotion (although the Secretaries meeting participants thought that nurseries problems are more European than those of the other organisations), and to be attentive to their proposals.



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11. ENA Summer meeting 2019 preparation:

Confirmed participants so far: BE, BG, CZ, FI, DE, IE, IT, NL, PT, SE, TR and UA. DK, ES, CH and NO are not coming.

a. Agenda

- The Spanish delegate asked to include in the agenda the involvement of ENA in the Alliance for the Defence of European Agriculture. He explained the aim of this new association, that includes different agricultural sectors, and it was agreed on having a summary of the key points for discussion at the next GA meeting.
- An update on the Italian associations regarding their participation in ENA.
- State of Industry
- The future direction of ENA
- Green Cities projects
- Plant health legislation
- Summer meeting 2020 (Bavaria, Germany)

b. Direction of ENA

The Vice-president explained that he had conducted interviews with some ENA members, shared many ideas to make ENA more dynamic and prepared for the next challenges, asked for the participant's points of view, and planned to submit a proposal to the board to be discussed at the GA meeting.

12. Date of Next Secretaries Meeting.

The next Secretaries meeting will be scheduled in fall 2019 in Bad Zwischenahn (Germany), with the participation of the MEP Mr Pavel Poc. **It was agreed on sending him a congratulations letter after his re-election as MEP, and to propose him one of the following dates to meet: October 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th or 25th.**

13. AOB

SG informed that, to the date, ENA membership fees for 2019 had already been received from FI, CZ, FR, ES, HU, BE, NO, IT, ½NL, SE, CH, DE, TR, UA and PL.

The President thanked all those present for their participation and contributions and adjourned the meeting at 13h45.