



Minutes of the ENA Secretaries Meeting held online¹ on Monday **22 February 2021** at 15h00 CET, 14h00 WET, 16h00 EET

Attendees:

Helena Zahradnikova (CZ), Maria Fall (NO), Markus Guhl (DE), Luis B. Martín (ES), Niamh Brennan (IE), Lucien Verschoren (BE), Harm Horlings (NL), Ertan Güler (TR), Maurizia Castellari (IT), Nik Thymakis (GR), David Denny (UK), Miet Poppe (BE), Julie Schou Christiansen (DK), Jyri Uimonen (FI), Grzegorz Falkowski (FI), Alexandar Galabov (BG), Harm Horlings (NL, Sustainability WG Chair), Henk Raaijmakers (NL, ENA Vice-President), Jan-Dieter Bruns (DE, ENA President), and Josep M. Pagès (ENA Secretary General -SG in the text-).

1. President's Welcome.

The President welcomed everyone and was optimistic that the good weather all over Europe was a sign of the excellent business coming up for spring.

2. Apologies for absence.

Maja Persson (SE), Leon Smet (NL), Caroline Föllmi (CH), Julianna Csikor (HU), Morgane Moëgne (FR), Emmanuelle Bougault (FR), Jovan Topalović (RS), Milka Glavendekic (RS), Dragana Skočajić (RS), and Anneke van Dijk (NL).

3. Agreement of this meeting Agenda.

The agenda was agreed on.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous Secretaries meeting held online on 30 April 2020.

The minutes were approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

No matters to report.

6. Brief round table commentaries on the situation in each country with regard to the Covid.

Each country delegate explained the sector situation in each country and the impact of the pandemic. An absent secretary had asked whether ENA should more often conduct surveys to share the situation in each country, and it was decided to wait until the next GA meeting in March, as the situation was not changing so quickly this year.

7. So'Green (European Green Sector umbrella organisation).

SG explained the So'Green initiative, a joint movement of sector organisations.

The President proposed, and it was agreed on, to pose to the GA the formal proposal to join this group. Regarding costs, ELCA had supported all costs so far and until the end of 2021, and in a next So'Green meeting we'll discuss splitting the future costs.



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The lobbying for greener infrastructure will not conflict with our lobbying focused on nurseries and plants.

8. Sustainability Working Group.

Harm Horlings, chair of the WG, explicated the draft documents recently shared, the manifest and ambition for sustainability, and defended the importance of these documents as generic guidelines at the European level. At a company level, every country has to decide how to act. He asked all countries to send their input and views for a complete discussion and eventual approval at the GA meeting.

It was decided to submit the documents to the GA to agree on it.

9. Promotion Working Group.

SG informed that the Green Cities campaign in 7 countries 2018-2020 had ended. Unfortunately, not all available budget was used because many activities were cancelled in the final year due to COVID. Very few Deliverable Reports were not approved by CHAFEA and are still pending to submit and approval. After submitting these reports, we'll have the Continuous Rreport finished. After CHAFEA approves it, we have to submit the Periodic Report of Y3, which includes the Technical Report and the Financial report, before 28 February. In March, we have to submit the Final Report.

SG informed that ENA obtained a grant for a new Green Cities campaign 2021-2023, targeting 13 countries and investing € 3.4 M (80% grant = € 2.7M). We are now working on the Communication Concept (logo, website and SSMM structure), the pre-financing from participating countries, and the event at the European Parliament.

Several countries' member organisations had joined forces and obtained a grant from CHAFEA for a promotion campaign in 2021, following the extra call of the EU that we lobbied for during the COVID crisis in 2020. They are also preparing a new call focusing on final consumers for 2022-2024. Any member interested in this new call may contact ENA.

10. Next General Assembly meeting (18 March 2021): items to include on the agenda.

It was agreed on including:

- So'Green (green sector umbrella organisation)
- COVID-19 situation in each country
- Sustainability WG
- Promotion WG
- Post-Brexit, including UK point of view; EU – non-EU countries IMP/EXPORT issues.
- Xylella fastidiosa
- Quality Standards (to formally close it)
- 2020 Financial statements and budget for 2021
- Update on Plant Names WG.



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Any member can send their problems with import/export issues to SG to collect and share in a small group meeting with interested members, if necessary.

11. Elections

ENA had planned to have elections last summer, but we had the meeting online and agreed to postpone the elections until summer 2021, hoping to have the elections in Bavaria. SG informed that the current Board can rule the association for four years according to Belgian law and the articles of our association. Because ENA had the last elections on 26 June 2018, if we were unable to celebrate the elections next summer, the current Board could keep ruling the association until 2022. Alternatively, we should have to implement a distance voting system.

12. AOB.

The President explained that he will propose the GA to have the summer meeting in early September instead of June-July, expecting that the situation will be better, and we will be able to have a physical meeting, including the option to attend the GA meeting online.

The President thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 16h30 (CET).

ⁱ <https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/587b73187c929af6b4b5e94d00a849474ce3cb93fbce651eb6b34cae4d785386>