

Minutes of the ENA General Assembly hybrid Meeting held on Thursday 2 September 2021 (08h00 – 12h30 CET) at Parkhotel Donauwörth, Sternschanzenstraße 1, Donauwörth, Bavaria, Germany and online via GoToMeeting.

Attendees, remote:

Neli Stamova (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Yuliana Popova (BAOPN - Bulgaria), Torben Leissgard (DP/ Danske Gartneri - Denmark), Tomi Tahvonen (Taimistoviljelijät ry - Finland), Luis B. Martín (Fepex - Spain), Eduardo Martí (Fepex - Spain), Maja Persson (LRF-T - Sweden), Caroline Föllmi (Jardin Suisse - Switzerland), and Harm Horlings (Sustainability **WG Chair**).

Attendees, in person:

Miet Poppe (AVBS - Belgium), Tim Van Hulle (AVBS – Belgium), Lucien Verschoren (AVBS - Belgium), Václav Hurt (SŠ ČR – Czech republic), Pavel Halama (SŠ ČR – Czech republic), Emmanuelle Bougault (Val'hor - France), Markus Guhl (BdB - Germany), Helmut Selders (BdB - Germany), Gergely Rónai (MDSS - Hungary), Val Farrell (IHNSA - Ireland), Maurizia Castellari (ANVE - Italy), Maurizio Lapponi (ANVE - Italy), Luigi Pagliani (ANVE - Italy), Fons van Wezel (ANTHOS – Netherlands), Jan Veltmans (LTO - Netherlands), Renata Fryszkowska-Madej (ZSzP - Poland), Jovan Topalović (SLHS - Serbia), Stefan Topalović (SLHS - Serbia), Patrick Svensson (LRF-T - Sweden), Umut Sakarya (SUSBIR - Turkey), Leon Smet (Anthos - Netherlands, Promotion **WG Chair**), Willy De Nolf (AVBS - Belgium, **Treasurer**), Henk Raaijmakers (LTO - 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 all participants. Mr Helmut Selders, President of BdB, also welcomed all ENA delegates to Germany and emphasised the need of plant protection products available to produce healthy plants and to have an apprentice exchange programme between nurseries to attract more young and skilled workers.

2. Apologies for absence.

Dora Aebi (CH), Jaume Riera (ES), Milka Glavendekic (RS), Dragana Skocajic (RS), and Zoran Sremcevic (RS) had sent apologies.

3. Agreement of the Agenda.

SG proposed some changes that were agreed on:

- To include an item on Promotion, item 6.2., about starting an ENA consumer campaign besides Green Cities.
- To move up in the agenda 7.2. Brexit (08h20)
- To move down the Elections to the last item, and after it, the new board takes over.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous GA meeting held online on 18 March 2021.

The minutes of the last General Assembly meeting were approved and agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

The SG made two remarks:

- On Sustainability: the ENA's ambition and the Manifest on Sustainability adopted by the GA was published on the ENA website.
- SoGreen (umbrella organisation of the European Green Sector) is going to have meetings in Iberflora - Valencia (ES) first week of October 2021, and in Paysalia - Lyon (FR) on 30 November 2021.
- The 'European Year of Greener Cities' it has not yet been decided whether it will be 2022 or 2023 (more likely).

7.2. Brexit

7.2.2. Phytosanitary aspects of EU-UK Agreement. Mr Yannis Karamitsios, EC Legal Officer.

Vice-president Raaijmakers recapped the changes on 1 January 2021 in the trade between the EU and the UK, stating the difficulties like the changing plant health requirements in the UK, the lack of connection between the EU and the UK software systems, the impossibility to enter plants with soil from the GB into NI. He gave the floor to Mr Karamitsios, Legal Officer of the European Commission of the Plant Health Unit, and advisor and participating in the Joint Committee on the functioning of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Mr Karamitsios participates once or twice a month in the SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) meetings between the EU and the UK, in which they examine the way both implement phytosanitary risk requirements. The EC is aware of all problems mentioned; even the EC has problems sometimes following the UK legislation because it changes frequently, and they need to enter the UK website and see what the applicable rules are for particular plants. Mr Karamitsios took note to ask the UK to be more transparent and give earlier warnings through SPS notifications about the change of their legislation. He informed the participants that under the international rules, if the EU changes the import requirements, the EU has to inform all international partners within a period of two months in advance. He asked ENA that if anyone has any specific complaints about UK rules changing overnight without a proper consultation and notification, to inform the EC.

In regard to soil, he was sure that if Northern Ireland has a problem, the authorities of Great Britain will be more sensitive about it and the EU will need to have at least reciprocity. He expressed that it is a problem for the UK that they are not ready to implement their own import requirements from the EU, especially with regards to Official Controls. As all these things are to be fixed by the United Kingdom, there is not much that the EC can do apart from bringing them to their attention. The EC's biggest bargaining tool is the fact that the EU also introduced some prohibitions of imports from the UK into the EU, especially of seed potatoes; the EU does not allow the import of seed potatoes from Great Britain into the EU, which has had a big impact. The UK keeps complaining about this, and the EC has been very clear, at the highest level, that

the EU will grant this access to the EU market only if the UK aligns their plant health regime dynamically with the EU plant health rules. If they do so, problems like the ones mentioned now, the issue of soil for instance, would be solved because the UK will have the same rules as the EU for the internal markets. He offered to bring all these complaints to their attention.

7.2.1. Exporters/importers' problems.

- Plants imported into the UK that were rejected for commercial reasons -not for plant health reasons- and were returned to the EU, had to go through the 'export/import' process again. Mr Karamitsios advised to check with the national authorities how to make this arrangement. If there is no phytosanitary certificate issued by the UK, it is not considered to be imported. Therefore, the arrangements could be more flexible, but this is not regulated by the legislation.
- Are the UK and the EU software using the proper scientific names?
The Vice-president encouraged the EU to use the new International Plant Names that will be published by the end of the month.
Mr Karamitsios said that the pests and the plants are published in the legislation with their scientific names; they are open to receive suggestions and examples of names that need to be updated.
It was agreed on sending the info on plant scientific names to Mr Karamitsios (EC), who will share it with Ms Panagiota Milona (EC).

7.2.3. Pre-export Certificate proposal.

Miet Poppe (BE) explained the proposal to save paperwork and extra controls when exporting to a 3rd country via another Member State. BE has already made bilateral agreements with DK and DE to simplify this process, avoiding one of the controls. Creating a database with the information on the export nurseries and their compliance with the requirements of the country of destination would allow the exporting country to proceed quickly issuing the Phytosanitary Certificate.

Mr Karamitsios advised to look at the article 100, paragraph 2 of the EU Regulation 2016/2031, as the legislation is quite flexible and offers different grounds to issue the Phytosanitary Certificate for export to a third country. The pre-export certificate issued by a previous member state is not the only option: the Plant Passport itself can be used as a tool, and the information on previous MS official inspections on the pest status (if it's a pest free area or a pest free production site), and also the official information from a previous phytosanitary certificate. Simply using a website of the original member state for information to issue the Phytosanitary Certificate is not something that Mr Karamitsios can see in the legislation. However, he said they will somehow standardise the communication with the original member state, or use other methods, looking closer at this second paragraph of Article 100, although to rely permanently on the inspection standards of an original member state doesn't look totally compliant with the EU legislation. He suggested to ask our lawyers about this Article 100, paragraph two, in order to

draw the conclusions on how best to issue the Phytosanitary Certificates for the UK and other 3rd countries.

Regarding the climate between the UK and the EU, Mr Karamitsios personally felt that they don't have a full picture yet because they are still negotiating. The UK is dependent on the trade of plants with the EU, and they are a main export partner for many MS. He had the very personal feeling that, at some point, the UK legislation will have to converge with the EU in certain issues.

The opinion of the UK delegates was missing in the meeting, and the delegates present and Mr Karamitsios felt that it would have been valuable.

Luis Martín (ES) complained that the UK does not accept the electronic Phytosanitary Certificate. Mr Karamitsios reported that the EC is working on it, and he thinks it is going to be addressed quite soon.

The Vice-president explained that despite the difficulties with the UK, the new situation made the UK customers to plan in advance and not to make last minute changes to the orders because the paperwork needs one or two days, and he highlighted that the sales to the UK had the same or even bigger volume than in the past. He asked the EC representative to take away some difficulties and thanked him for the explanations today and the permanent dialogue with us.

Mr Karamitsios assured that the EC will continue addressing all these issues to the UK using all the levels and asked to receive specific information from ENA to bring it to the attention of the UK.

6. PROMOTION

6.1. Green Cities project 2021-2023 update

Leon Smet, Promotion WG chair, summarised the meeting of the current Green Cities campaign held the previous day, with participants from all 13 target countries. The WG discussed the details of the program, the status of the joint activities, the country's activities developed by the national organisation, the results of the external measurement, and the campaign video -recorded in 13 countries- that is going to be ready later this month to be used by everyone in all conferences, lobbying events and in social media. The main campaign event is being organised in Brussels for European politicians; the winner of the Green Cities Award will be presented there, after a selection among a finalist from each of the 13 countries.

The Vice-president emphasised that nursery plants are the solution to many problems in the cities -clean air, water retention, healthier life, etc.- giving a strong message that eventually leads to sell more plants, as the President remarked. The Vice-president expressed his concerns because a country was not pre-financing the campaign. It was discussed that the

country might be expelled from the campaign, aborting the direct activities in the country and spreading among all other countries the cost assigned to them to keep the joint activities (around +€1.000/year and country). However, not following the plan approved by the EC might jeopardise the entire campaign and put the Grant at risk. It was agreed on persuading the country managers before taking the case to REA (EC) to cancel activities there.

It was agreed on adding more project information to the ENA website.

6.2. Besides Green Cities, starting an ENA campaign targeting final consumers?

The WG Chair asked all members about organising a campaign focused on the consumer market, the retail market, after the completion of the current campaign that is promoting sales in the amenity market. The majority of participants raised their hand in approval.

The Vice-president reminded all that the country organisations will have to finance or even pre-finance this campaign (80% is financed by the EC), despite the common tensions between countries or between companies focused on different markets (landscaping, forestry, consumers).

SG stated that each participant might be a direct beneficiary, which is a different approach from the current campaign.

Markus Guhl mentioned another campaign planned for 2022-2024 targeting end-consumers, led by the Netherlands, and involving several ENA member organisations.

It was agreed that the new campaign should not overlap with this one.

7. LEGISLATION & PLANT HEALTH

The Vice-president emphasised the good relationship with DG SANTE (European Commission) and encouraged all ENA members to participate and answer the ENA requests for feedback to better lobby the EU.

7.1. Xylella fastidiosa

7.1.1. Update of the situation in each country

Vice-president Raaijmakers summarised the overall situation in Europe and the current EU legislation on Xylella, and each country gave their opinion:

- Germany: free from Xf, despite suspicious plants that had arrived there.
- The Netherlands: free from Xf, despite suspicious plants that had arrived there.
- Denmark: free from Xf, despite presumed suspicious plants that had arrived there.
- Belgium: free from Xf, despite an interception 2 years ago.
- Italy: free from Xf, except in the Demarcated Areas in Apuglia.
- France: free from Xf, except for the 3 Demarcated Areas in Corsica, Cote d'Azur and Occitanie.
- Spain: free from Xf, except for the Demarcated Areas in Balearic Islands and Alicante.

To keep all nurseries on alert, the risks of *Popillia japonica*, found in Italy and Switzerland, and *Pseudomonas arboricola*, were highlighted. The nurseries in some countries make smaller sections to have smaller lots and reduce the risk of blocking large quantities in case of an outbreak.

In Germany, they have a WG with the Ministry discussing a compensation fund for the sector impacted by quarantine pests, with the aim to get 100% compensation for the lost plants, based on a study by a German University. Markus Guhl (DE) suggested to all delegates to push their governments with similar initiatives.

7.1.2. Participation in a new proposal for a Research Project

After the ENA participation in the European Conference on Xylella, in which ENA presented the research priorities from the nurseries point of view with the cooperation of many ENA members, a large group of researchers asked ENA to participate in a Research Project proposal named Beyond-Xylella, with 27 participants from many EU and non-EU countries. It's a follow up of the XFactors project. If approved by the EC, ENA will participate in the following activities:

1. To select with the members the most important trade plants in Europe and the main varieties of those to be used for the sentinel plots and thermotherapy.
2. To provide plant specimens of the selected host for the sentinel plots through the members (paid by the project), to establish the plots at different countries and continents.
3. To look for nurseries that want to participate in the thermotherapy studies.
4. To help in the dissemination of project results, fact sheets, videos, and information through the social media communication channels, etc.
5. To show the scientists how plant cargo containers are 'packed' for trade. They will train 'dogs' for canine olfactory detection of Xylella in the field, nurseries and cargo containers.

Allocated budget: € 35.000, 100% financed by the EC.

The GA agreed on supporting this proposal.

7.1.3. Actual sampling and testing procedures; how is the EU Regulation (2020/1201) implemented in practise in each country?

Vice-President Raaijmakers stated that we had only received the information from two countries (IT, CH) and left the issue on the table, although he stressed that it is very important to follow this information because the situation is becoming more and more complex with advances in DNA analysis that delve deeper into the different types of Xylella.

7.2. VAT rates on plants 

President Bruns complained that not only VAT, but all taxes are different in each country. 19 countries had answered the request to inform the VAT rates; knowledge is necessary because the seller nursery must apply the VAT of the destination country in distance sales to final users.

Country	ornamental plants (%)	fruit trees (%)	forest trees (%)	VAT rate for other plants if different from above; please specify (i.e. perennials).	Standard VAT rate for most goods (%)
Belgium	6	6	6	seeds: 21; services work in gardens: 21; composed material (plant+something else, for example plant in ornamental pot): 21	21
Bulgaria	20	20	20		20
Czech Republic	15	15	15	15	21
Denmark	25	25	25	25	25
Finland	24	24	24	24	24
France	10	10	10	for flower compositions if there is many other components than flowers or plants : ex. Plastic, artificial flowers; a "simple bouquet" is at 10 , a ready made floral composition for a ceremony or specific decoration is at 20%	20
Germany	7	7	7	if plants represent gardening work (gardening and landscaping) i.e. it is a service, 19 is applied.	19
Greece	13	13	13	13	24
Hungary	27	27	27	-	27
Ireland	13,5	0	13,5	Veg and Herbs 0	23
Italy	10	10	10		22
Netherlands	9	9	9	9	21
Poland	8	8	8	8	23
Portugal	6	6	6		23
Serbia (non-EU)	10	10	10	20 for plants with rhizomes	20
Spain	10	10	10	10	21
Sweden	25	25	25	25	25
Switzerland (non-EU)	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	7,7
Ukraine (non-EU)	20	20	20	20	20

7.3. International Plant Names list update.

SG informed the GA that the list should be available from 7 September, with many new names (ca. 17.000). Both books are larger -woody plants 1.224 pages (+20%), and perennials 786 pages-. A press release is being prepared, the website is being updated, and the nursery

organisations will have a discount to sell the books to their members (prices: €60,- for woody and €50,- for perennials incl. VAT).

The Vice-president thanked all for their cooperation and insisted on the importance of writing the correct plant names in each and every situation where nurseries and traders use them.

It was agreed on contacting EPPO, whose plant genus and species names are used by the EC and NPPOs, to inform them about the update of our list.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

The Vice-president stated the importance of the Sustainability for our sector, thanking Harm Horlings for the job done so far.

8.1. Peat availability and alternatives. How is the situation in each country? How intense is the pressure from the market?

Henk asked these questions and whether other issues related to sustainability are a concern for nurseries in each country.

Ireland: they have a serious problem with peat production ceasing and the lack of alternatives. They are under pressure to reduce peat in the hobby markets, to retail and garden centres, mostly in the UK, although less in the growing sector.

Plastics, including pots and containers, are also a concern.

Switzerland: there is political pressure to reduce peat; peat cutting production was banned in 1987. The industry made an agreement with the authorities: reduction to 50% by 2025 and to 5% by 2030, and they require equal conditions for imports to prevent market distortion. Peat-free substrates in the retail trade and landscaping are currently available. Some nurseries have already partially or completely converted to peat-free production, although the production is more expensive (training of staff, monitoring of culture, additional fertilisation). The authorities finance a one-year advisory service for growers to support peat reduction.

Germany: the sector has a WG with the government. The 50% reduction is realistic but in the future. The future directives will depend on the government that will emerge from the next elections. The availability of peat substitutes is also a concern. There was a campaign started last year on peat reduction that will have an impact on the production in a few years.

Plastics and fertilisers are also a concern.

Sweden: there is good access to peat, with production in the country, although permits for new quarries are complicated. There is debate, although not very intense, about whether peat is good or not.

Val Farrell (IE) pointed out that the growers are using peat from the soil and not burning it, but returning the peat to the soil with the plants. Consequently, we should highlight the benefits of plants for fixing CO₂ and what we do with peat.

There was a consensus that peat reduction is more political than it is factual, and that we have to follow scientific evidence as some alternatives might be less sustainable.

It was agreed on sharing information among countries and making a proposal from our industry on the peat reduction goal, to avoid having a different legislation in every country, and to work together with the peat companies. → SG will contact Growing Media Europe.

The Vice-president pointed out that plastic is also a major concern, mostly related to containers.

Harm Horlings, WG first chair, showed his dissatisfaction that peat and plastics, had been unsuccessfully included in several proposals for ENA. To move us forward in improving the world, we don't only have to tackle these small problems. After four years of work, ENA has a broader ambition for sustainability.

Finally, Vice-president Henk Raaijmakers recognised the efforts made by Harm Horlings, thanked him on behalf of ENA and all members for his outstanding work for the Sustainability and for the entire association, and invited him to participate in the 2022 summer meeting in the Netherlands.

9. STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

9.1. European nurseries' statistics.

SG informed the GA that the EC is updating the list of items requested in the farmers' official statistics in the MS. ENA proposed the EC that, in official EU statistics, they separate flowers from ornamental plants, and Union Fleurs and some country organisations members of the Working Party on Flowers and Plants of COPA-COGECA, also supported this proposal.

Regarding our own statistics, 96% of ENA country members had answered.

			Country	# Nurseries	Production area (ha)	# workers	Production value	Year
EU	ENA	BE	Belgium	919	5.410	1.364	€ 378.000.000	2019
EU	ENA	BG	Bulgaria	63	515	800	€ 14.000.000	2018
EU	ENA	CZ	Czech republic	248	3.321	10.584	€ 58.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	DK	Denmark	92	2.066	1.000	€ 99.680.000	2020
EU	ENA	FI	Finland	85	340	500	€ 35.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	FR	France	1.058	12.262	7.150	€ 558.900.000	2019
EU	ENA	DE	Germany	1.714	18.274	21.000	€ 829.000.000	2017
EU	ENA	GR	Greece	1.038	1.300	10.000	€ 50.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	HU	Hungary	1.200	7.800	2.000	€ 40.000.000	2015
EU	ENA	IE	Ireland	180	950	900	€ 43.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	IT	Italy	7.459	15.890	32.500	€ 1.265.000.000	2015
EU	ENA	NL	Netherlands	2.900	17.000	9.000	€ 900.000.000	2020
	ENA	NO	Norway	166	210	500	€ 24.000.000	2017
EU	ENA	PL	Poland	3.239	6.998	18.000	€ 350.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	PT	Portugal	312	1.828	1.150	€ 562.000.000	16/19
	ENA	RS	Serbia	420	1.100	1.000	€ 25.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	ES	Spain	2.300	10.000	19.000	€ 900.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	SE	Sweden	118	516	350	€ 105.000.000	19/20
	ENA	CH	Switzerland	346	924	2.030	€ 194.072.453	2020
	ENA	TR	Turkey	850	5.400	53.000	€ 748.000.000	2020
	ENA	UA	Ukraine	110	1.900	2.000	€ 30.000.000	2020
EU	ENA	UK	United Kingdom	1.000	10.000	12.000	€ 1.350.000.000	2016
				25.817	124.004	205.828	€ 8.558.652.453	

The Vice-president concluded that we have to look at the trends, more than the exact figures. The rules for collecting the data from the organisations will be clarified for the next year's data collection.

9.2. The market situation in each country.

The information on each country situation as explained by the delegates is included as an annexe.

The SG thanked all members that had sent their country reports, summarised in the following table.

ENA - STATE OF THE EUROPEAN NURSERY INDUSTRY SUMMARY								
Trends	PRODUCTION		INTERNAL RETAIL MARKET		INTERNAL AMENITY MARKET		EXPORT MARKET	
Country	2020-2021	Forecast	2020-2021	Forecast	2020-2021	Forecast	2020-2021	Forecast
Belgium	=	↑	↑	↑	=	↑	=	↑
Bulgaria	↓	=	=	↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑
Czech Rep.	=	↑	↑	↑	=	=	=	=
Denmark	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	=	=	=	=
Finland	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
France	↑	↑	↑↑	=	↑	=	↑↑	=
Germany	↑	=	↑↑	↑	↑	↑	=	=
Greece	↓↓	=	↑↑	↑↑	↓	↑	=	↑
Hungary	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	=	↑
Ireland	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	=	↓
Italy	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑	=	↑↑	↑
Netherlands	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	=	↑	=	↑↑
Norway								
Poland	↑	=	↓	=	=	=	↑	=
Portugal	↑	↑	↑	=	↑	=	↑	↑
Serbia	=	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	=	=
Spain	=	=	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Sweden	↑	↑	↑	=	=	=		
Switzerland	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑		
Turkey	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	=	↑	↑
Ukraine	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	=	=
United Kingdom								

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9.3. Lack of trees and plants in the European market.

The President stated the lack of young nursery stock because of the good internal demand from EU and also non-EU countries, including China; all looking for young material in the same production regions. The prices of young stock have increased 10-15 % and he recommended to increase the prices to the nursery customers as well. For some varieties, the price has increased significantly because of the demand, posing a problem to the nurseries that had sent an offer, despite the recommendation to place the order ASAP. BdB, the German association, made an informative campaign to raise the awareness of the customers and urged them to place orders as quickly as possible.

The Vice-president agreed that there is a lack of some tree varieties, although there are other varieties that are still very price competitive and also the short-term production like perennials and fast-growing shrubs. He recommended caution because of the uncertainty. Therefore, the prices need to increase 10% - 15% just to cover the increasing costs.

France is experiencing a lack of plants for their projects and Italy expects a lack of trees due to the approval plan to plant three million trees (€ 300 million from EU Next Generation fund) in

the next three years in new urban forestry. Under the European Green Deal, the EU biodiversity strategy commits to planting at least three billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, although the Vice-president pointed out that we don't have the trees, nor the seed or the additional production areas.

The ENA board recommended the growers and traders in the meeting to advise their customers to visit the nurseries and contract plants as early as possible.

9.4. How to make the nursery sector attractive for young people. 📄📄

Lucien Verschoren (BE) stated that there is a shortage of workers in the nurseries, proposing to find a way to make the work in nurseries more interesting for young people. Many ideas surged from the follow-up discussion. Making a list of institutes that teach nursery and a list of nurseries that are interested in internships to make international exchange of students might be of help. Young people show more interest for tasks in the nurseries related to new technologies, sustainability, and nature. 15 to 18 years old people should be the focus of the efforts. Dual education, with most days working in the nurseries and a few in the horticultural college, seems a cost-effective and practical approach in Ireland. Open days or fairs are also a good tool to show the nurseries' jobs to the young people. Erasmus and other mobility schemes might be used for this purpose.

Switzerland and Germany had sent their viewpoint in writing. It was agreed on asking all members about initiatives and ideas to be discussed in a Working Group to organise the proposals. Finally, it was agreed on having Lucien Verschoren as chair of this WG.

9.5. Trade shows; calendar and coordination?

The SG stated that in some weeks there are sectorial trade shows in different countries, and launched the idea to produce an open calendar and try to coordinate it in cooperation with the country associations. To have this platform might help coordinate dates for the trade shows. It was agreed that ENA can explore this idea further.

10. Next meetings.

It was agreed on having the next General Assembly meeting at IPM, Essen, Germany, on Thursday 27 January 2022 in the morning, and on Wednesday 26 January 2022 we will have the European nurseries reception.

10.1. 2022 Floriade, the Netherlands (last week of June)

Leon Smet (NL) explained the plan to meet during the last week of June in Almere, at Floriade, which theme is 'growing green cities'. In the Green Cities campaign, we'll organise the largest annual conference on Wednesday 29 June, and will hold the General Assembly meeting on Thursday 30 June. The Dutch associations will arrange post-meeting visits as well.

10.2. 2023, Turkey.

Umut Sakarya (TR) and his organisation SÜSBIR are planning the ENA summer meeting for June 2023.

The President encouraged all countries to **submit a candidacy** for the **summer meeting 2024**.

13. AOB.

The **Swedish** association had been contacted by a consulting company working with architecture and technology. They raised the issue of climate calculations for plants, particularly climate data for nursery plants. There is a requirement -at least in Sweden- for climate calculations for buildings. The question is whether new plantings will be required when building new areas in cities. There are various initiatives to calculate climate data for nursery plants, although there is no consensus. Patrick Svensson (SE) asked whether the requirements for climate data for nursery plants were discussed in other countries.

The Netherlands had had a similar discussion, and the i-Tree tools are used to calculate the value of the trees in the cities. Also, in the Netherlands and Germany, some initiatives to compensate the buildings with plants to make them carbon neutral are being discussed.

It was agreed on looking around and keeping an open eye on these initiatives to consider whether we should work on them in a future meeting.

The **Dutch** association Anthos had received a proposal from a Research group interested in starting European-wide research about climate-adapted urban trees for the future. Leon Smet (NL) asked the delegates to spread the word to other universities and research institutes interested in participating. SG will share the request with all ENA members.

Yuliana Popova (BG) pointed out that the **extreme hot temperatures** (+40°C) in summer impact production, mainly on container-grown plants. She asked whether other countries had the same concerns, and proposed sharing information on nurseries' management under these circumstances. Serbia and other Mediterranean countries have the same problems, and additionally a water issue.

Finally, the SG thanked **Michael Bruns** for the technical setup of the meeting that allowed the ENA delegates to participate online.

12. Board of Directors election.

Following the Domestic Regulations of the Association, the SG informed the delegates about the elections' procedure. The outgoing President, Jan-Dieter Bruns, acted as Chairman of the Voting Office.

The Chair of the Voting Office asked if there were any candidates for President, Vice-president, and Treasurer. He informed the GA that current Vice-president Henk Raaijmakers put himself forward as a candidate for the Presidency, **Tim Van Hulle** as a candidate for **Vice-president**, and **Willy De Nolf** as a candidate for **Treasurer**. They were elected by a show of hands and accepted their position.

The newly elected **President, Henk Raaijmakers**, remarked that he had worked very well with Jan-Dieter Bruns, who impressed him with his network of contacts, and was convinced that he will cooperate very well with the new Vice-president.

The former President, Jan-Dieter Bruns, thanked all ENA members, the board, and Josep M. Pagès, who was renewed as SG, and adjourned the meeting wishing all delegates a fruitful continuation of the summer meeting activities in Bavaria.