

EFAEP – Report of the General Assembly of June 16th 2006

Venue: Ordine degli Ingegneri, Bergamo (Italy)

Attendance :

From The Netherlands: Jan Karel Mak, Monique Bollen – VVM

From Great Britain: Jason Reeves, Mike Barker, Jim Thompson – IEEM

Peter Cook – CIWEM (guest)

From Italy: Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini, Alessandro de Carli – AIAT

Diego Marazza, Carlotta Queirazza, Piero De Bonis – AISA

Giambattista Rivellini, Marzio Remus – AIN (guests)

From France: Bruno Weinzaepfel, Dominique Bernard, – AFITE

From Germany: Vera Kessler – VDI Brussels

Matthias Friebel, Hans-Juergen Wicht – VNU

Jörg ten Eicken – VBU

From Czech Republic: Libuse Deylova, Ludmila Krusková – CAEC

From Belgium: Kristof De Smet – VMD

The meeting has been chaired by Jan Karel Mak, president of EFAEP.

1/ Approval of the minutes of the 2005 General Assembly (London) and comments on the minutes of the last December meeting (Amsterdam)

The minutes are approved by the Assembly. No comments have been raised on the minutes of the informal December meeting.

2/ Report of the President

EFAEP President Jan-Karel Mak presented the Action/Work Programme 2006 (see **Annex 1**).

Jan-Karel draw the conclusion that the extended Executive Committee's work since the last GA in June 2005 in London was a success. He thanked Bruno Weinzaepfel (AFITE) and Linda van Duivenbode (VVM) for their great support to the Committee. The Executive Committee has started to revise the Statute and will make a suggestion for revised Statute to the General Assembly. The Priorities of EFAEP should now be to build and activate the EFAEP Network and to become a relevant Civil Services Organisation (CSO).

As there should be more communication between the members, Jan Karel will send around a 6-weekly information email. The Goals for EFAEP for the year 2006 according to the President should be:

- The completion of the database
- 1 or two position papers
- The carrying out of the work plan 2006.

Subjects for the next GA could be:

- Review course and strategy of EFAEP

- Extend the work plan
- Integrate new members

3/ Report of the Treasurer (accounts 2005 and budget 2006)

The report on the financial situation of EFAEP has been presented by Jim Thompson, EFAEP Treasurers. The details are reported in **Annex 2**.

Some further decisions taken by the GA with relevance to the budget are:

- At the suggestion from Bruno Weinzaepfel (AFITE) the General Assembly grants the same budget for the presentation of EFAEP at the Pollutec as in 2005 (565,34€)
- The GA decided to spent an amount of up to 3000€ for the improvement of the website
- 1000€ are granted for the promotion of EFAEP if this should be necessary
- 500€ will be granted for the further development of the database
- At the suggestion of the Treasurer with the support of the President, a ceiling for membership contribution of 7000€ has been fixed. After this decision no member association will pay less than 250€ or more than 7000€. Furthermore it was decided that the contribution of 1€ per member should only be charged for paying members.
- The organisation of a “European Verifiers Day” by Matthias Friebel and his working group is welcomed by the GA (see point 8). It is decided to cover eventual losses up to a sum of 1000€.

The financial accounts and the budget are adopted unanimously, together with the report of the President.

4/ Presentation and approval of the new “Vision and values” document

The “vision and values” paper, which had been drafted by Jim Thompson, was adopted after a few minor changes (see **Annex 3** for the final version). It will be published on the EFAEP website and will be referred to in the future revised version of the Statute.

The GA has recommended the Member Organisations to translate the revised visions and values document into their own language.

5/ Update on current and potential new members

New Members are welcomed by the President. Jan Karel welcomed Kristof de Smet, who represents the new EFAEP Member Association VMD from Belgium, and Libuse and Ludmila from our new Czech Member CAEC (which has replaced CSE). Jan Karel announced also that APEA (Portugal) and the CSE (Czech Republic) are not able to pay their membership fees. Their membership would be allowed to continue for a further year only but without voting rights.

Matthias Friebel, who is responsible for finding new members for EFAEP, has been very active in contacting other European Association that might want to join EFAEP. The results up to now are as follows:

- VSA, Switzerland: they have not yet taken a decision whether to join or not
- Hungary: the relevant Hungarian organisation is not interested
- VDSI, Germany: is in a process of reorganisation and will decide later
- FUTURE, Germany: they have shown no interest in EFAEP

- Swedish Association of Municipal Environmental Managers: they are interested in becoming a member but have not had time to join the GA.
- IES, GB: the organisation has about 1000 members. Will Pope and Caroline Roberst will suggest to their board that IES should become a member.
- CIWEM: Peter Cook was especially welcomed by Matthias as an observer of CIWEM: Peter gave a short introduction of his organisation.
- AIN, Italy: Mr. Rivellini gave a short introduction of the “Association of Italian Naturalists”.

6/ Proposal of a meeting between the Associations' Secretariats

Three possible dates have been decided for the meeting between the Secretariats to be held at the EFAEP Office in Bruxelles next fall. The organisation of the meeting will be carried out by Susanne Wiedermann, VNU's Secretary. The name and email address of the Secretariats have been collected for all the associations but ATEGRUS, APEA and FAEP. **The missing names must be sent to Mario (mgrosso@ingegneriambientali.it) as soon as possible.**

The meeting will have the following major purposes:

- to let the Secretariats know each other (hoping that this will result also in a stronger connection between the different EFAEP Member Associations);
- to agree on a basic quality level in the practical management of the EFAEP affairs;
- to introduce the Database (ENEP) to the Secretariats, who will be responsible for allowing the subscriptions of their regular members.

7/ Presentation of the Database of Environmental Professionals

Emanuele Regalini (AIAT) gave an overview of the development of the database. The Database was developed by Emanuele, Mario (AIAT) and Piero de Bonis (AISA) in co-operation with a team of developers. The GA has decided that the official name of the database will be ENEP (European Network of Environmental Professionals). The database is now nearly running. A remaining problem is data protection. Regarding this **Kristof de Smet** has agreed to send Emanuele a disclaimer according to Belgian law. All present at the GA should include their own profile in the database and invite others to do so. This will provide the database with the necessary data to start.

A new working group has been established, that will be responsible for preparing all the steps which are necessary for the official launching of the ENEP. The WG, which includes Emanuele, Vera, Kristof, Monique and Jason, has organised a short kick-off meeting just at the end of the GA.

After a short discussion the GA has agreed that students would be allowed to enter their data. It was agreed that if technically possible, ENEP could be searched for students or professionals but that the default would be professionals. This would avoid giving the impression that the database was dominated by students.

8/ EMS working group

Matthias gave a short overview of the working group's activities so far. The Group was implemented in 2004 in Lyon. Since then there were two meetings in Brussels. Experts from France, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Germany are members of the group which is now called “EMS Expert Group”.

Matthias suggested the creation of subgroups which was welcomed by the GA. His suggestion to hold a “European Verifiers Day” in 2007 in Brussels was also welcomed warmly by the GA: **Matthias** will send the minutes of his expert group to the General Assembly mailing list. **Matthias** will send also a document for consideration by the Exco with a brief description of the subgroups and of the required professionals profiles.

Kristof de Smet (VMD) proposed also to allow national working groups to meet under the roof of EFAEP. After a short discussion the GA decided to also have national or national / international-mixed working groups which are active. They should be monitored and controlled by EFAEP. Matthias added that then the EMS-expert group will allow a national EFAEP-working group on CO₂-emmission trading under the direct monitoring and control of the expert group steering committee. This was agreed by the GA.

9/ Proposal to draft a position paper on WFD

Dominique agreed to the suggestion of the President to publish an EFAEP position paper on the planned revision of the European Framework Directive on waste (WFD). He emphasised that the work would have to be done quickly as the deadline for amendments in the European Parliament would already be at the beginning of September 2006. The Vice President pointed out that the directive was of great importance to waste producers and waste managers. He made clear that EFAEP’s position should be a technical and not a political one.

The Member Associations will inform EFAEP of the name of their appointed person to revise the draft (which will be prepared by **Dominique**) and make suggestions for changes. The changed document will go to all member organisations with a deadline for any comments or changes. No answer will mean agreement. **Vera Kessler** will send an email to the GA mailing list to inform the member associations about this project.

10/ Miscellaneous

Thanks to Jim Thompson and Jason Reeves (both IEEM) **EFAEP has five new displays** to be utilised for its promotion. EFAEP will be charged 900€ for the displays, which is cheaper than foreseen in the budget preview for 2006. The five displays will be located in Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, but they will be sent to other countries in case of need.

Jim Thompson will represent EFAEP at a Conference in Hungary. For this purpose the General Secretary **Mario Grosso** will prepare a leaflet with updated information on EFAEP and mail it to Jim.

11/ Date and location of the next GA

The GA has expressed the wish to hold the 8th December 2006 informal meeting in Spain with the help of ATEGRUS. As no representative of ATEGRUS was present at the GA, **Jan Karel Mak** will approach ATEGRUS and ask them if this will be possible.

The June 2007 General Assembly will be held in Prague and organised by CSE. An exact date has to be fixed.

Mario Grosso (AIAT)
EFAEP General Secretary
mgrosso@ingegneriambientali.it

ANNEXES

1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. EFAEP “Vision and Values”