

## **EFAEP – Report of the General Assembly of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007**

**Venue: the house of ČSVTS (Czech Scientific-Technical Society), Prague (Czech Republic)**

### **Attendance:**

From The Netherlands: Jan Karel Mak, Linda Van Duivenbode, Peter Rombout – VVM

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

Carolyn Roberts, Bernard Fisher – IES

From Italy: Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini – AIAT

Carlotta Queirazza – AISA

From France: Bruno Weinzaepfel, Dominique Bernard – AFITE

From Germany: Vera Kessler – EFAEP/VDI Brussels

Matthias Friebel – VNU

Jörg ten Eicken – VBU

From Czech Republic: Libuse Deylova, Ludmila Krusková, Josef Konecny – CAEC

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

### **1/ Approval of the minutes of the 2006 General Assembly (Bergamo) and comments on the minutes of the last December meeting (Bruxelles)**

The minutes are approved by the Assembly. It has been stressed that, as agreed in Bergamo, the Vision & Values document should be translated into the different European languages (see point 4 of the minutes of Bergamo GA), so the member associations are warmly invited to do it as soon as possible.

### **2/ Report of the President**

Jan-Karel Mak presented the Report of the President 2006/2007 (see **Annex 1**).

A long discussion has followed between all the representatives about the main topics covered by the Report. Among the most important points of discussion were:

- the lack of communication, not between the participants to the General Assemblies but between all the Associations' members; more efforts should be dedicated towards enhancing the communication by the representatives of all the associations;
- the actual role of EFAEP within the EU legislative activity after four years since its establishment:
  - some members (especially AFITE and VVM) still believe that EFAEP should play a major role in lobbying with the EU on environmental issues, even if IEEM suggests not to use the word “lobbying”, but for example “influencing”; IES suggests that we should try to influence the primary legislation, rather than just working on already existing drafts, but of course this would be much more difficult; VVM has cited the positive experience of EFCA (European Federation of Clean Air), which has played a major role in the Directive on atmospheric pollution;

- some others (namely AIAT, VDI) think that, due to the significant differences among the member Associations, lobbying with the EU should not be core-business of EFAEP, as actually the results of the first four years of activity have demonstrated (only a couple of position papers have been drafted). In fact it might be very difficult to find common positions on the environmental topics, so one alternative option could be to supply the EU with statistic-based positions, as for example SOCENV is doing at the UK level. This could be obtained thanks to the ENEP system. Emanuele from AIAT believes that, as EFAEP is significantly growing with new members, the difficulties experienced in finding common positions will be increased, so as the bottom-up approach is becoming more and more difficult it might be wiser to focus on top-down activities, such as sharing knowledge and information among the members (by organising meetings, courses, newsletters, etc.)

### **3/ Report of the Treasurer (accounts 2006 and budget 2007)**

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

EFAEP financial situation is good, especially thanks to the new members, but Jim has pointed out the importance of diversifying the sources of income. One possibility, according to Mario, will be the attraction of supporting members (mainly companies), thanks to the possible commercial utilisation of the ENEP system. Regarding the fund raising, a colleague of Vera is now dealing with this topic, so we might ask her to do it also for EFAEP.

**Accounts 2006 and budget 2007 are adopted unanimously by the General Assembly, together with the report of the President.**

### **4/ Discussion on the proposal of a new Statutes**

A draft of a new Statutes was prepared by the Executive Committee, and has been submitted to the GA for approval. A long discussion has followed, focused mainly on the Objectives (Article 4) and on the Membership (Article 7), which has led to some modifications on which all the members have agreed. The approved version of the Statutes is attached (see **Annex 3**).

The future time schedule is the following:

- December '07 (next GA): approval of the final version, including the byelaws. This will have to be submitted to all EFAEP members with three months notice, i.e. at the beginning of September '07
- Publication in Moniteur Belge

### **5/ Approval of a new member (AIN)**

The application of AIN (Association of Italian Naturalists, that had participated as a guest at the last GA in Bergamo) was considered by the ExCo, which had checked and approved its Statutes. The General Assembly has then warmly welcomed AIN as the third Italian Association Member.

## **6/ Update on potential new members**

According to the Report of Matthias Friebel, SVU (Switzerland) and ANAVAM (Spain) are very likely to become new EFAEP members. All the Association Members are warmly invited to find new members, especially in Austria, Poland, Scandinavia, Greece, Hungary, etc.

## **7/ Update on ENEP - European Network of Environmental Professionals**

Emanuele and Mario (AIAT) gave an overview of the development of ENEP (see **Annex 4**). The system is currently undergoing its final technical improvement (so-called “Level 2 advanced”), which was approved by the ExCo in March, 2007. ENEP will be ready for the official launch on September, 2007; a proposal from the “marketing group” on how to proceed has been briefly discussed. Jason Reeves will prepare and distribute a short questionnaire to all the Association Members, aimed to assess which means of communication they will use for spreading the information on ENEP. A brief users instruction manual will be also prepared by AIAT.

The ExCo should then start to consider how to make profit from the commercial exploitation of ENEP, to be discussed at the next GA.

## **8/ Progress of EMS expert group**

Matthias gave a short overview of EMS working group's activities so far. The First European Environmental Verifier's Day was successfully organised in Bruxelles on May 25th, with the involvements of the three new representatives from the EU-commission, who are responsible for EMAS and the development of EMAS III. This event earned 500 € for EFAEP's budget.

As reported at the GA's in Bergamo and Bruxelles, the EMS-expert group had started a planned initiative early 2007 to become a liaison member of the ISO Standardisation Committee TC 207 SC1 and of the Art. 14-Committee (EMAS-Standardisation). A few days before the Prague-GA the group was informed that after a worldwide balloting the ISO-membership was rejected for the time being by Columbia and Canada with veto rights. 30 states voted for EFAEP. Application will be repeated, as this form of membership is theoretically possible and done by some other organisations, but in general unusual up to now, due to ISO-rules, as national representatives are more or less only accepted and not multinational organisations. So there is a lot of politics in this field of expert-work on standardisation, which is very well known and common to working group members. However, the group argued with EFAEP, being the EMS representative within the EU-community and ISO will discuss in general at their meeting in Beijing, where EFAEP will be present through several national EFAEP EMS-expert working group members, to change rules of application and balloting within the ISO-organisation. Matthias was told by the ISO SC1-secretary (New York) to try again an application in autumn.

During a brief discussion, the General Assembly has expressed its appreciation to Matthias for his and the groups work and it has been pointed out that the EFAEP members should be informed further on about the activities of this working group.

The General Assembly was keen to be kept informed of the activities of the group and the benefits to EFAEP.

## **9/ Date and location of the next Assemblies**

A formal general Assembly will be held in December '07 (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>), mainly for the approval of the new Statutes. It will take place in Spain (ATEGRUS) or, as an alternative option, in Germany, organised by VBU.

The Treasurer has then proposed to modify the time schedule of the two annual assemblies, mainly for a better approval of the accounts and budget. The proposal is to shift them to March and October; then the first Assembly of 2008 will take place on 27-28<sup>th</sup> of March, in a place still to be defined, depending on the actual location of the December '07 one.

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### **ANNEXES**

1. Report of the President 2006/2007
2. Report of the Treasurer (2006/2007)
3. Proposal of a new Statutes
4. Update on ENEP