

EFAEP : Report of the General Assembly of December 5th 2003

Venue : POLLUTEC Exhibition Paris Villepinte Parc des Expositions

Attendance :

From The Netherlands : Jan Karel Mak, Theo Henckens VVM

From Great Britain : Jim Thompson, Mike Barker IEEM

From Portugal : Carla Pais APEA

From Czech Republic : Vladimír Prchlik, Libuše Deylová CSE

From Italy : Diego Marazza AISA

Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini, AIAT

From France : Jean Lebègue, Bruno Weinzaepfel, Paul Degobert AFITE

From Germany : Hans-Friedrich Hinrichs, Rüdiger Wolfertz, Günter Subklew VDI-KUT

Vera Kessler, VDI Brussels

Matthias Friebel, VNU

Sebastian Müller VBU

From Finland : Jorma Jantunen FAPSEP

From Switzerland : Harald A. Mieg ASEP/SVU

The meeting has been chaired by Jan Karel Mak, vice-president of EFAEP who made the apologies of Dominique Bernard, bound to be in Paris for a surgical operation.

Jan Karel Mak welcomes the attendance and specially Mr Mieg representing as an observer the Swiss association "Schweizerischer Verband der Umweltfachleute"

1/ Approval of the minutes of the last June meeting in Brussels

Jim Thompson explains that the project of protest letter foreseen at point 5 of the minutes has been suppressed because it was coming too late for any effective action.

Matthias Friebel says that the minutes do not mention changing the statute in order to incorporate sustainability and the elections to bring up the Executive Committee to 7 members.

It has been answered that changing the statute is not to be done presently, less that six months after its official registration and that sustainability would be incorporated in the "Visions and values"

The extension of the Executive Committee was the object of point 4 of the agenda

Taking those remarks into account, the wording of the minutes has been approved.

2/ Progress Report since the last meeting

The EFAEP registration signed on May 11th by the King of the Belgians has been published in the "Moniteur Belge" on June 13th (page 32087)

The executive Committee had 3 meetings since the general meeting in Brussels, 2 Conference calls and a physical meeting in Brussels

The financial situation of the federation has been examined, the ways to get Brussels subsidies have been discussed and a project of budget for 2004 has been set up

The bulletin n° 4 has been prepared by Theo Henckens.

The EEP/EFAEP awards have been prepared by some EFAEP members from VDI-KUT, IEEM and AFITE who met the journalists of the “European Environmental Press” to choose the nominees and select the winners.

The ceremony of the awards has been chaired by Dominique Bernard who attributed the awards in the name of EFAEP.

The progress report is adopted by the assembly

3/ Year to date financial reporting and budget 2004

The expenses on some items of the budget 2003 have exceeded the provisions (see appendix 1) Vera Kessler explains that for setting up the web-site VDI Brussels has used a student paid 20 euros/hr.

(Emmanuele Regalini will look for more advantageous tariff for maintenance of the web-site) Nevertheless, financial year 2003 ends with a positive balance of 2716,14 euros.

The budget for the year 2004 reaches a total of 15100 euros, including the administrative costs at the Brussels seat, and some expenses for participation to the ENCOS meeting in Berlin and auditing of the accounts, necessary to ask for the future subsidies from Brussels. Auditing will also be demanded to the member association if they ask alone or in group Brussels for subsidies.

In the budget 2004 the sum of 5000 euros entitled EU conference activities must be worded “EU conferences and other activities”. It may act as a buffer as the conference activities are not yet defined.

Incorporating the residue of 2003, that budget will leave a positive balance of 1616,14 euros.

Viewing that budget, Jim Thompson says that he does not see much benefit for the members as most of the money is attributed to the administration of EFAEP. In fact the concrete results are expected from the working groups which up to now work unpaid as voluntary. And the item “Office costs at the VDI office “ should be written “office costs and services”, as it includes the work of Vera Kessler who follows regularly the EU regulations for the benefit of all EFAEP members. Vera Kessler is warmly thanked for that work.

In those conditions, the financial accounts and the budget are adopted unanimously

4/ Extention of The Executive Committee : Election of the General Secretary

The EFAEP statute foresees an Executive Committee consisting of one president, one treasurer, one secretary and up to four vice presidents. For the present time it is composed of 3 persons belonging to the 3 founder associations.

It seems judicious to extend somewhat the ExCo and to choose a secretary out of the countries already represented in the ExCo.

For that purpose Dominique Bernard has prepared a memorandum (see appendix 2)

Concerning that question Matthias Friebel from VNU thinks that 4 people in the Executive Board are not enough for all the work to be assumed by the board : best preparation

of the meetings, managing the working groups, different lobbying, etc. He also says that for the voting procedures it is necessary to have an uneven number of people.

However increasing the number of people will increase the travel costs of the meetings, specially for the normal half-yearly physical meetings in Brussels. Concerning the structure, one must distinguish an official and political structure (the official ExCo) and the efficient and working people such as Theo Henckens of VVM, Vera Kessler of VDI and the people of AFITE who are not official members of the ExCo.

In those conditions the majority of the attendance favours limiting the extension of the ExCo to four members and looking for an applicant coming from the countries of southern Europe. Mario Grosso from AIAT declares to want to apply for the role of secretary if that work will not charge too much AIAT which already assigns about 20% of its budget to EFAEP. He also want to be replaced as leader of the working group n°3

Mario Grosso is elected EFAEP secretary unanimously by the attendance.

5/ Status of the four working groups

1/ Working group n°1 : Environmental strategy, policy, legislation and sustainability

Matthias Friebel insists on the difficulties to get answers to his e-mails (no reaction from France or UK) and on the fact that when he gets answers most of them are out of the subject. He thus thinks necessary to have a physical meeting, probably next February in order to define a concrete action.

His proposals for 2004 bear on lobbying, legislative review, agricultural activities, recovery of the EMAS system, development of sustainable systems.....

The concepts are too vague and too ambitious and it is necessary to focus the activity of the group on a precise project to make efficient work and get effective results.

Emmanuele Regalini proposes to focus the activity on the EU regulations after a comprehensive review of the national regulations on typical topics as CO2, agriculture, etc. It is proposed as a first job for WG1 to select typical regulation and to gather and compare the reactions in the different countries taking part to EFAEP .

In the future Emmanuele Regalini is taking place of Matthias Friebel as leader of WG n°1

2/ Working group 2 : Environmental education, information and communication

Günther Subklew presents a series of slides (see Appendix 3). Due to the proximity of Jülich with Heerlen he had the opportunity to meet physically with Wilfried Ivens and to prepare priority settings for the WG. He got interest from Portugal and Italy and probably from Czech Republic from where he received the curriculum of Danuse Kvasnickova but the answer to his last e-mail did not reach his mail box. He got no answer from AFITE nor VNU and he sent the documents only to people having answered his first e-mails.

He proposed an “environmental triangle” gathering Science, Education and Professionals (professionals from industry, administration and consultancy) and the scope of the group would be to create more interaction between the three partners of the triangle.

Also for that working group, the reaction of the assembly was to focus the work of the group on a selected item for the next six months. It has been mentioned to consider the environmental education of the administrative bodies in the different countries.

3/ Working group 3 : Waste management

Once again, the group leader Mario Grosso did not get much answer to his three different e-mails (see Appendix 4). Only Bertus Van Heugten and Pavel Novak gave their reactions to a proposal of studying the impact of the EU legislation on wastes, which for the present time does not interest Czech Republic. A good topic would be to discuss the future strategies on waste management oriented either on material recovery or energy recovery. It is proposed to set links between WG3 and the different commissions dedicated to waste management in the different EU countries.

Mario Grosso incites the different associations to activate their participants to WG3 Bertus Van Heugten has been proposed as the new group leader.

4/ Working group 4 : Industry and Environment

Walter Vermeulen leader of the group sent an activity report exposed to the assembly by Jean Lebègue (see appendix 5). Only 3 people answered to his e-mails with proposals on carbon trading, standardization of methods, certification of experts and safety procedures, rationalisation of environmental legislation, exchanges of best practices.

In that working group the ambitions have to be reduced focusing on a short term item which has to be chosen on a common agreement.

6/ Action plan 2004

Théo Henckens recalls the results of the survey he proposed at the last general meeting (see appendix 6)

Concerning the EU environmental policy he suggests that every WG based on a relevant issue from the pending EU legislation organizes a seminar on a specific problem with an advice given to the EU Commissioner of the Environment.

He also suggests to set up pools of responsible people to manage the data base to be included on the web-site and the international exchange of students. The periodical update of the EU legislation is already done and efficiently by Vera Kessler.

The action plan also foresees to increase the financial input of EFAEP by increasing the number of member associations, at least one per country. Contacts have already been made with Flanders (VMD : Vlaamse Milieudeskundigen) and Theo Henckens will renew the contacts through VVM, Emmanuele Regalini proposes to make contact with Sweden at Göteborg, and Günter Subklew to contact Hungary.

7/ EFAEP endorsement of member events

A short note prepared by Dominique Bernard (see Appendix 7) details the different possibilities. They have been adopted by the assembly without any objection.

8/ EFAEP web-site

The EFAEP web-site www.efaep.org is now operative and every member association can include its own information. Vera Kessler is ready to help in case of problems

Matthias Friebel proposes to include EMAS 3 expertises under the heading “topics” and to add information on the environmental management

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9/ Follow up of pending environmental EU regulations

Vera Kessler has prepared an up to date version of the EU regulations (see Appendix 8). She is warmly thanked by the assembly for that valuable working tool for EFAEP

10/ Feed back on EFAEP “Vision and values”

APEA has sent his comments (see appendix 9) on the EFAEP visions and values presented in the previous meetings in order to avoid a too “technocratic” aspect of EFAEP.

Matthias Friebel has mentioned that sustainability is to be included in the visions and values.

11/ Participation to the “Essence” meeting in Berlin

An EFAEP booth will be installed during the event. The posters to be displayed have to be sent in due time to Günter Subklew or Wilfried Evens who will take part to the symposium

12/ Date of the next general assembly

The date of [Friday June 11th 2004](#) has been provisionally retained for a next general assembly

PAUL DEGOBERT

APPENDIX

- 1/ Finance : File finance2003NEW.ppt
- 2/ File : Extension of the ExCo.doc
- 3/ WG 2 : File efaep-051203.ppt
- 4/ WG3 : File Report WG_WM_12_03.pdf
- 5/ WG4 : File Report to the EFAEP Board.doc
- 6/ Action plan : File Action plan 2004 with logo.ppt
- 7/ Endorsement : File Endorsement of events.doc
- 8/ Pending legislation : File EFAEP EU Report10-2003.pdf
- 9/ Visions and values : File EFAEP_visionvalues_byAPEA.doc