

EFAEP : Report of the General Assembly of June 11th 2004

Venue : Représentation Baden Württemberg, Bruxelles

Attendance :

From The Netherlands : Jan Karel Mak, Theo Henckens VVM

From Great Britain : Joel Bateman, Mike Barker, Tim Bines IEEM

From Portugal : Joao Vieira APEA

From Italy : Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini, Fosca Romani AIAT
Cinzia Morsiani, Piero De Bonis (AISA, guests)

From France : Jean Lebègue, Bruno Weinzaepfel, Dominique Bernard AFITE

From Germany : Hans-Friedrich Hinrichs VDI-KUT
Vera Kessler, Jorg Niehoff VDI Brussels
Matthias Friebel, Susanne Wiedermann VNU

From Spain : Lara Perez ATEGRUS

The meeting has been chaired by Dominique Bernard, president of EFAEP.

1/ Approval of the minutes of the last December GA in Paris

The minutes are approved by the Assembly.

2/ Report of the president on 2003 including action plan (Dominique Bernard)

Positive achievements

- Registration of EFAEP as an international ASBL (03 May)
- Already 12 members from 9 countries; More than 13,500 professionals
- 2 general meetings in 2003; 6 ExCo meetings
- Web Site www.EFAEP.org
- Bulletin (already the fifth issue)
- EEP Awards
- EU pending regulation survey
- Action Plan
- Cooperation on symposiums (APEA, VVM, ECOS)

Frustrations; Lack of achievements

- Recruitment of new members
- Working group (except WG1)
- Funding (lack of resources)
- Lack of achievements regarding action plan

Pending

- Contacts with DG Environment
- Database of environmental professionals
- First EFAEP international symposium

The progress report is adopted by the assembly

3/ Financial Report on last accounting year, Budget 2004

Due to the absence of Rudiger, the financial report has been illustrated by Dominique. The details are reported in **Annex 1**. Matthias Friebel has proposed that VNU, which is now paying the minimum fee (250 euros), will pay an higher fee. The financial accounts and the budget are adopted unanimously

4/ Database of environmental professionals

Jorg has firstly illustrated the new mailing lists that have been created for the **General Assembly**, the **Executive Committee**, the **Working Groups** and the **Secretariat**. Each member association is responsible for the subscription of the relevant email addresses. The operational details are reported in **Annex 2**.

Concerning the Database of environmental professionals, it seems very difficult to raise funds from the EC, thus other funding opportunities must be evaluated. Jan Karel suggests that each Member Association will contact its Government or the Ministry of Environment in order to get a partial subsidy. Jorg will prepare a short description of the DB proposal, to be used for the fund raising activity.

Theo suggests to investigate whether co-operation with seminar organisers or environmental magazine editors (like EEP) might possibly generate funds.

Matthias will ask the VNU Board 1000 euros for funding the DB project.

5/ Follow up of pending environmental EU regulations

Vera Kessler has prepared an up to date version of the EU regulations (see **Annex 1**). She is warmly thanked by the assembly for that valuable working tool for EFAEP

6/ International exchange of trainees

According to the action plan discussed during the last December meeting, EFAEP should seek for a system for international job opportunities and exchange of students.

EFAEP was supposed to set up a committee in charge of defining the way and means to move forward.

So far only 3 candidates have been identified, Régine RENEE CORAIL (AFITE) could chair the committee.

Facing a lack of work, thus of conclusions, the ExCo raised two opposite solutions for discussion:

1. opening a special section on the Web site EFAEP.ORG and let operate it without intervention of the associations
 2. Appoint a responsible person in each association who will build a network within universities/schools and industry and will act as a go-between
- The Assembly has decided that a small Committee (5 to 7 persons) will be created in order to provide with a quick answer between the two options.

7/ EFAEP Symposium on Environment & Health

The details on the Symposium (including a provisional budget) are reported in **Annex 1**. The breakeven registration fee (with 200 participants) is 175 €. There will be a risk sharing between AFITE and EFAEP (50/50, with maximum 3000 euros for EFAEP). The profit sharing will be 50/50.

We expect speakers from 5 European countries to be found by EFAEP members (see the list of country representatives at the Budapest meeting on NEHAP)

8/ Promotion of EFAEP and New Members

Jan Karel has described the possible strategies for EFAEP growth. It is important to involve new associations (especially from Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia), but also to work on new contents within EFAEP, in order to be more attractive. More details can be found in **Annex 1**.

9/ Date and location of the next GA

A General Assembly will be held in Lyon during the Pollutec Exhibition, on the 1st of December. Another Assembly is foreseen for the 10th of June, and will be organised either in Italy or in Great Britain.

10/ Working groups

Current state of the WGs:

WG1: the Group will focus on the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP). A meeting with a representative of DG Environment has been held on the 10th of June, thanks to the efforts of the WG Manager, Emanuele Regalini. The perspectives of the WG are thus favourable. More details can be found in **Annex 3**.

WG2: the group will be suspended.

WG3: the Group Manager, Mario Grosso, will try to restart the activities in the Autumn.

WG4: will focus on the greenhouse gas topic.

Matthias Friebel has proposed to establish a new WG on the Environmental Management Systems (EMS), with a first meeting in Lyon (see **Annex 4**). The proposal has been approved by the Assembly.

A brainstorming on the problems encountered by most of the working groups has been coordinated by Theo:

Problems

participation (associations + individuals)
Communication
What is in it for me? (why should people be motivated?)
Goals too ambitious, scope too wide
lack of consistencies

Learning points

focussing takes time
be flexible

Solutions

- define focus (WG1: ETAP)
- communicate focus within the members of each association (internal marketing)
- define the deliverables
- show “What is in it for me” (contacts + network)
- activate national sections; make national sections “adopt” a product (advise to the Commission, international congress, etc.)
- only experts
- make WGs “demand driven”
- change the names of the WGs in order to clearly cover the focus
- make “call for interest” to the individual members of the Associations, with “end products” and deliverables
- tele conferencing
- better use of electronic communication means
- avoid conflict of interest

11/ Business Plan for the future

The General Assembly agreed on the following 7 point EFAEP business plan 2005-2008:

1. Member associations from all EU countries (minimum 25); make clear what we can offer
2. More than 25.000 members
3. EFAEP known with 50 % of all individual members
4. Professional and sustainable international working groups
5. In 2008 minimum of 2 international congresses per year
6. Become a respected partner of the European Commission. Arrange to be asked for advise by the EC on a regular base

7. Frequently used, professional, profitable, up-to-date database of environmental experts (more than 25 % of individual members in database) The EFAEP executive committee is invited by the General Assembly to come-up with proposals how to achieve the above goals.

Finance

To achieve the above, the GA agrees that it would help a lot to have a permanent secretariat in Brussels as soon as possible. Therefore it is necessary to raise more money (at least 100.000€ per year).

In that connection the General Assembly has decided to make a real effort to get sponsoring (EU, individual countries, congress organisers, database). A special task force will investigate the fund raising possibilities. The task force will consist of Tim Bines, Dominique Bernard, Jorg Niehoff and Mike Barker.

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

ANNEXES

1. Slides presented during the General Assembly
2. EFAEP mailing lists – guide for users
3. WG1 – State of the activities
4. Environmental Management Systems