

EFAEP – Report of the General Assembly of June 24th 2005

Venue: Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London

Attendance :

From The Netherlands: Jan Karel Mak, Linda Van Duivenbode – VVM
From Great Britain: Joel Bateman, Mike Barker, Jim Thompson – IEEM
Peter Matthews – Society for the Environment (guest)
From Italy: Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini – AIAT
Diego Marazza, Carlotta Queirazza, Piero De Bonis – AISA
From France: Bruno Weinzaepfel, Dominique Bernard, – AFITE
From Germany: Vera Kessler, Jorg Niehoff – VDI Brussels
Matthias Friebe, Hans-Juergen Wicht – VNU
Hans-Friedrich Hinrichs – VDI-KUT
Karlheinz Kalenberg – VBU
From Czech Republic: Libuse Deylova – CAEC
From Finland: Miira Riipinen – FAEP

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

1/ Approval of the minutes of the 2004 June 11th General Assembly and comments on the minutes of the last December meeting

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 on the last fiscal year

Positive outcomes:

- Active participation in Exco and members meetings
- Website (even if only very few members are active in its constant updating with new contents)
- Bulletin (after one year of stand-by, Linda Van Duivenbode will be the new responsible for the Bulletin; a new number will be issued briefly)
- EEP awards (EFAEP will be involved once again; the task force is coordinated by Bruno and Linda)
- EU Pending Regulations (significant contribution from Vera Kessler)
- Cooperation on symposiums (APEA, VVM, ECOS)

Frustrations and pending issues which were raised during the June 04 General assembly meeting:

- Recruitment of new members (many contacts have been taken since June 04 with disappointing results; cf. point 10 hereafter)
- Contact with DG Environment
- Lack of achievement regarding action plan

- Funding
- Working groups
 - ⇒ These 4 above issues have been addressed by a “Funding Task Force” which has made fruitful proposals on how to move forward
- First EFAEP International Symposium (the proposed symposium on Health and Environment was cancelled because of a lack of participants. This situation was analysed as a side effect of the Pollutec organization rather than a lack of interest regarding the subject. Fortunately, AFITE was able to avoid any cost of cancellation for EFAEP)
- Task allocation (this allocation has been recently finalized by the Exco)

3/ Report of the Treasurer (accounts 2004 and budget 2005)

The report on the financial situation of EFAEP has been presented by Jorg on behalf of Rudiger, who has resigned from his role as Treasurer. The details are reported in **Annex 1**. The financial accounts and the budget are adopted unanimously, together with the report of the President.

4/ Renewal of the Executive Committee (election of three new members)

According to the statute of EFAEP: “The members shall serve a term of four years; One third of the Executive Committee should be renewed every two years; And nobody shall serve two consecutive terms in the same position”.

For the continuity in the Presidency, we proposed that the past President shall stay for a new term in the Executive Committee as one of the Vice-Presidents.

Hinrichs (VDI-KUT) suggests that the internal rotation within the ExCo is not acceptable, so he proposes, in addition to Dominique, a second candidate for the same position: Matthias Friebe (VNU).

The question comes up if the size of the ExCo has to be limited to four. The Assembly decides to vote on this issue, with the following results:

4 members: 3 votes

5 members: 6 votes

Abstentions: 1

The new Executive Committee will then be composed by five members.

Coming to the election of the ExCo, the candidates are:

- ✓ President: Jan Karel Mak
- ✓ Vice-presidents: Dominique Bernard, Matthias Friebe
- ✓ Treasurer: Jim Thompson

The four candidates present themselves briefly.

All candidates have then been elected, so the future ExCo consists of the following five members:

- ✓ Jan Karel Mak (President)
- ✓ Mario Grosso (General Secretary)
- ✓ Jim Thompson (Treasurer)
- ✓ Dominique Bernard (Vice-President)
- ✓ Matthias Friebe (Vice-President).

The ExCo will review in the near future the statutes, also with regard to clear rules of the nomination of candidates and the way elections are carried out.

5/ Presentation of the new EFAEP Database

The new Database of Environmental Professionals (DBEP), developed jointly by AIAT and AISA, has been presented by Mario Grosso and Emanuele Regalini (see **Annex 2**). The work is still in progress, as Level 1 has been concluded and Level 2 will be immediately started. It is now time for all the Associations to cooperate in the development of the Database by:

- ✓ indicating at least two members who will be involved in the testing phase (to be communicated to Mario – mgrosso@ingegneriambientali.it – not later than July 15th)
- ✓ co-operating with AISA on the definition of the expertises and skills to be included in the Database.

Members have congratulated for the work that has been done and have pointed out the need of a very high level of security of the system towards possible attacks from hackers.

6/ Results of the EFAEP Questionnaire

The EFAEP Questionnaire has given interesting results, which have been presented by Vera. About 500 persons have compiled it, and 158 of them have declared their willingness to cooperate with EFAEP, so they will be informed about the current and future activities of the Federation. The latest issue of the Bulletin will be sent to all those who have filled up the Questionnaire.

The Questionnaire has been compiled by members from 7 Associations only, so it will be kept on line for a longer period (until the end of October).

7/ Status of the Working Groups

Working Group on Environmental Technologies (chaired by Emanuele) is in stand-by. They have tried to answer to an EU consultation process, but unsuccessfully.

Working Group on Environmental Management Systems (chaired by Matthias) includes members from 7 countries. They have been looking for contacts with the EMS sectors of the EU. The next meeting of the WG members is foreseen in October in Bruxelles (EFAEP Office).

8/ New strategy for the drafting of EFAEP position papers

Linda has described her new proposal about a new strategy for the drafting of common position papers. Starting point is when a consultation paper is published. An expert will be sought from within the member countries to write a first draft position paper. This will then be peer reviewed and open for comment on the EFAEP website. A final position paper will be endorsed by the ExCo and submitted to the EC.

All the process will be published and constantly updated on the EFAEP website, and the new Database will be very helpful to speed-up the process.

9/ Environmental Legislation of the European Union

Vera Kessler has prepared an up to date version of the EU regulations. The attention was mainly focused on the characteristics of the new Commission. She is warmly thanked by the assembly for that valuable working tool for EFAEP

10/ New EFAEP members

The only new Association that will join EFAEP is VMD (Belgium), which counts about 190 members. No answer came from APROMA (Spain) and VDSI (Germany).

Libuse informs all Members that a new Czech Association has replaced CSE. Its name is “Czech Association for Environmental Care” (CAEC), and it will subscribe to EFAEP instead of CSE.

Jan Karel points out the necessity to expand in the Scandinavian countries and in the Eastern Europe. IEEM will explore Ireland to find some potential candidates.

11/ Budget 2006

As the newly elected Treasurer, Jim has briefly introduced the Budget 2006. Regarding Level 3 of the Database, its funding will be discussed after the presentation of the Level 2, foreseen in December 2005.

12/ Improvement of the EFAEP website

EFAEP website is still too static as only very few people regularly update it. As a consequence it is not frequently accessed. It has been proposed to lower the level of protection of some documents (i.e. the EU Legislation report could be accessible to all, and not restricted). The ExCo will come up with a proposal.

13/ Date and location of the next GA

The next General Assembly will be held in Italy on Friday, June 16th 2006. It will be organised by AIAT & AISA, who will decide for a proper location.

An informal meeting will take place in Amsterdam on Monday, December 12th 2005. It will be organised by VVM.

At the end of the General Assembly Peter Matthews has briefly introduced the activity of the Society for the Environment.

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ANNEXES

1. Report of the Treasurer
2. Presentation of the Database of Environmental Professionals