



## Report of the General Assembly of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### Venue

Essen (Germany), Haus der Führungskräfte, Alfredstr. 77/79

### Attendance

From The Netherlands:

Jan Karel Mak, Linda Van Duivenbode, Peter Hermens – *VVM*

From Great Britain:

Jason Reeves, Mike Barker, Jim Thompson – *IEEM*

Bernard Fisher, James Irwin – *IES*

Paul Horton – *CIWEM*

From Italy:

Mario Grosso, Emanuele Regalini – *AIAT*

Marzio Remus – *AIN*

From France:

Bruno Weinzaepfel, Yves Bouhier – *AFITE*

From Germany:

Vera Kessler – *EFAEP/VDI Brussels*

Peter Czermak, Gunter Subklew – *VDI-KUT*

Matthias Friebel, Hans-Jurgen Wicht, Susanne Wiedermann – *VNU*

Jörg ten Eicken – *VBU*

From Czech Republic:

Libuse Deylova – *CAEC*

From Belgium:

Kristof de Smet – *VMD*

The meeting was chaired by Jan Karel Mak, President of EFAEP.

### 1. Review and approval of the minutes of the last GA in Prague

The minutes were briefly reviewed and approved.

### 2. Report of the President about the achievements and the future action plan

Before reporting, the President informed the General Assembly about a letter he had received from VDI-KUT which expressed some criticism about the activities of EFAEP. The issue had been discussed with the two representatives of VDI-KUT, who stressed the need of a stronger role of EFAEP in the technical and scientific education of environmental professionals, and particularly of young people. This should be achieved for example through a stronger involvement of the European Universities within the EFAEP network. Also more information on EU funding should be sent from EFAEP to the different Associations members. VDI-KUT representatives also noted that ENEP is certainly a good starting point for the future prospects of EFAEP, but in general that it is very important to make it more clear to the members what are the activities of EFAEP and what are the expected outcomes.

The topic was discussed among the participants, and it was agreed that the Executive Committee will take into proper consideration- all these remarks in the development of its future action plans. The General Assembly also warmly invited VDI-KUT to play a more active role in all EFAEP activities.

Jan Karel then reported about the achievements of year 2007 and the action plan for 2008 (see **Annex 1**). The General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Executive Committee so far.

### 3. Financial situation (outlook 2007 and budget 2008) and principle of a paid Secretariat

The financial situation was illustrated by Jim Thompson, Treasurer of EFAEP (see **Annex 2**). Major topics of discussion were the proposal of hiring a paid Secretariat in 2008 and the possibility to earn some money from the commercial exploitation of the website (banners) and/or from ENEP (subscription of companies). Regarding the first point, the General Assembly agreed to hire a paid Secretariat in 2008, with the following conditions:

1. it will not be for pure Secretarial work but for really supporting the activities of EFAEP in a proactive way;
2. the ExCo will draft a detailed work plan including a list of tasks;
3. the Secretariat will be recruited following a standard selection process;
4. the contract will not be automatically renewed at the end of the year.

On the second point, the General Assembly was against selling commercial banners for advertising on the EFAEP website, while the idea of charging companies for access to ENEP might be of interest and should be investigated by the ExCo.

Finally it was decided to put an additional budget item for promotion material (new banners, business cards, etc.).

### 4. Election of a new General Secretary

The Executive Committee strongly recommended the re-election of Mario Grosso as General Secretary, because of his very active role in the Executive Committee so far and because of the good work carried out in the ENEP project, together with Emanuele Regalini. There were no other candidates for this position. The General Assembly then unanimously welcomed the re-election of Mario Grosso as General Secretary for another three-years term. Mario warmly thanked the General Assembly for its appreciation and for its support.

### 5. Approval of new members

AIN (Italy) was warmly welcomed to its first General Assembly as a member. Also the application by SVU (Switzerland) was accepted by the General Assembly, so EFAEP now has its first member from Switzerland. It was also suggested to try to get in contact with APEA (Portugal), as it seems from their website that they are back in full operation.

### 6. ENEP: update, marketing

The ENEP issue was thoroughly investigated during the dedicated workshop of December 3<sup>rd</sup> (see **Annex 3**) The General Assembly decided to set a target of 10% of members of each Association being subscribed to ENEP up to the next GA in of March '08. In addition to the current domain, the "enep.eu" will also be registered. Finally, the Assembly agreed that, in order to facilitate the subscription to ENEP, the Association members should not charge extra fees to their individual members, but the access to ENEP should be included as a standard benefit for all members (excluding students, as was already decided in 2006).

### 7. Any other business

- A **new working group on climate change** will be established under the supervision of Paul Horton (CIWEM)
- After a first approach by Jan Karel, further **contacts will be established with EPE** (European Partners for the Environment)
- We will try to **get in touch with Mr. Ladislav Miko** (European Commission, DG Environment), who is in charge of biodiversity and very well informed on a wide range of environmental issues
- A possible further field of action for EFAEP is related to the **Environmental Liability Directive** and in particular to the insurance issue; Jim will investigate the topic.
- More people belonging to the Association members (and especially from the new ones) should be involved actively in EFAEP; to this aim the ExCo will prepare a list of possible activities and will issue a "Call for people" (also via ENEP).

- Linda strongly encouraged the members to prepare short reports about their activities of possible interest for EFAEP, their participation in meetings or events, etc. to provide content for both the website and the Bulletin.

Finally, the presentation by Martin Herrndorf of the Wuppertal Institute about “Sustainable Consumption: a brief guide to issues, approaches and political strategies” was much appreciated by the General Assembly and stimulated an interesting discussion.

## **8. Date and location of the 2008 General Assemblies**

As previously decided, the next General Assembly will be held in March '08 (27-28<sup>th</sup>), possibly in Finland; France (Paris) will be the second choice, in case of negative response from FAEP. The Assembly of September (18-19<sup>th</sup>) might be organised in Italy by AIN.

Mario Grosso (AIAT)  
EFAEP General Secretary  
[mgrosso@ingegneriambientali.it](mailto:mgrosso@ingegneriambientali.it)

## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1 – Report of the President

Annex 2 – Financial situation

Annex 3 – Report of the workshop “ENEP: working for you!”

3A) Internal marketing of ENEP (Emanuele Regalini)

3B) External marketing of ENEP (Jason Reeves)

3C) National customisation of ENEP (Linda Van Duivenbode)