

Minutes of the ERFP - Steering Committee meeting - Bonn, Germany

Chair: Catherine Marguerat-König

Participants: Oya Akin, NC Turkey; Elzbieta Martyniuk, NC Poland, Tamas Szobolevszki, NC Hungary; Frank Begemann, Stefan Schröder, Sebastian Winkel, ERFP Secretariat

ERFP Steering Committee Meeting

Catherine Marguerat-König opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

ERFP budget

Frank Begemann introduced and explained the current status of the country contributions to ERFP and the ERFP expenses. The multi-year balance of the country contributions and the expenses of ERFP shows still a surplus of approximately 300,000 €. The figures for the year 2012 were still temporary, since outstanding issues to individual bookings had to be clarified with EAAP. The Secretariat presented a table with the open questions. After the clarification of the outstanding issues the Secretariat will provide a revised overview.

The budget plan for the year 2014 was drafted.

Based on the adjustments to the UN contribution rates, ECPGR adapted its contribution rates, too. The Secretariat explained the modifications, options available and suggested adjustments of the ERFP contribution rates. For an efficient and accountable organization, the contribution rates should be checked every four years (similar to the term of the Secretariat) and, if necessary, adjusted. Applying a four-year cycle, the next turn for the checking would be in 2014. Until then, the contribution rates agreed in 2010 in Crete should maintain. The identified options should be presented at the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. The favored option, which copies the ECPGR rates and adjusts them to the ERFP budget, would be easy to justify and has the least disadvantages, esp. with respect to a broad and sustainable financial support for ERFP. Therefore, from the point of view of the SC these new ERFP contribution rates should be implemented starting in the year 2015. The procedure for the request for the ERFP country contributions shall remain as decided during the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Bratislava. Therefore, a draft standard letter, which is to remind the NC to paying the ERFP contributions, was discussed and agreed. Individual amendments in the letter shall still be possible.

The SC agreed that the budget line for ERFP projects shall phase out by the end of the projects, which have been established under the ERFP Call for Action. In future, the general expenses and the project funding shall not be managed in two separate budget lines anymore. The project coordinators of the currently running ERFP projects shall be asked by the Secretariat about the project results and the planned end of their projects. Even the project coordinators of the two new projects, which were decided during the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Bratislava, shall be asked for the time frame for their projects.

For the work of the Secretariat (incl. management of the ERFP website) 10,000 € were annually paid in 2011 and 2012. But according to the documented workload of the Secretariat the real costs of this task were more than 40,000 €. Currently, it is not intended to increase the budget for the Secretariat but institutions which are interested in taking over the function of the Secretariat should consider real costs involved. Therefore, the report of the Secretariat to the Assembly shall quantify the achieved workload per year.

The Secretariat prepared a draft paper with proposals to enable returns of interests generated from the ERFP capital. The draft was discussed and amended by the SC. Furthermore, the following questions to EAAP were raised:

- Does EAAP already have time deposit accounts at the bank where the ERFP account is located or at an another Italian bank?
- Is it possible for EAAP to have time deposit accounts outside of Italy?
- Are there any further problems for EAAP connected with a time deposit account for ERFP?

The Secretariat will ask EAAP for the needed information.

The possible options should be presented at the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. From the point of view of the SC it would be appreciated if EAAP continued to perform the accounting for ERFP but in separate accounts for ERFP and EAAP.

Regarding the rules for reimbursements some general questions were raised and clarified. Rules for reimbursement for SC meetings were added and the wording was clarified in some cases. Some of the adjustments required changes in the ToR. On this occasion, further updates to the ToR were discussed. The draft version for the amendments of the ToR and of the rules for reimbursements will be presented to the Assembly in Nantes in August 2013 for consideration and adoption.

ERFP Assembly 2013

The draft agenda for the Assembly meeting was presented by the Secretariat. The SC agreed to the agenda with adding two further topics "Selection of ERFP SC members" and "EC zootechnical legislation".

According to the ToR the Assembly shall decide about changes in the SC in 2013 because of the end of the four year term of office of Oya Akin. Therefore the Secretariat will ask the NC for their nominations to the SC by email. Furthermore the Assembly shall be asked, if Luis Telo da Gama (Portugal) may be replaced by his colleague Filomena Afonso (Portugal). The replacement was requested by Luis Telo da Gama because of his new tasks.

The Secretariat expressed its willingness to invite Sergio Pervon from the European Commission for the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. The interesting issues for the discussion with Sergio Pervon is the new EU zootechnical legislation and the current situation of setting up agri-environmental measures in the Common Agricultural Policy.

A one-day SC meeting shall be dated on 23rd August 2013 to prepare the following ERFP Assembly Meeting. A meeting of the SC with the FAO would be appreciated on the evening of the 23rd August 2013.

The SC and the Secretariat agreed that the local organiser should plan the technical visit / side event for Sunday afternoon.

The SC and the Secretariat want to invite three former colleagues, who significantly contributed to establish ERFP, to the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes in order to thank them for their former engagement. For the reimbursement of their travel costs connected with their participation on the ERFP Assembly Meeting an *Ad hoc* Action was decided by the SC.

FAO matters

For the preparation of the 14th session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) on 15th-19th April 2013 the SC was asked to support the European Regional Group (ERG) to draft a statement to the agenda item 4, Animal Genetic Resources. Based on the working documents of the FAO, the SC discussed these issues and prepared a draft statement. This draft statement was then provided to the chair of the ERG, who coordinated the further drafting process within ERG. The draft statement of the SC includes recommendations to clarify the future role of the Regional Focal Points within the Funding Strategy of the GPA.

ERFP Secretariat 2014

According to the ToR in 2014 the function of the Secretariat will be transferred from BLE to another institution. Therefore the Secretariat drafted a procedure for the tender of the Secretariat. The proposal was discussed and amended by the SC. It shall be presented to the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. If the Assembly adopts this procedure, it will be added in the ToR.

Review of ERFP activities (Working Groups and Task Forces)

Regarding the TF Risk Status and Indicators more information about the progress of this TF is required. Therefore the Secretariat is asked to request the needed information (time frame, next steps, expected results) from the chair of this TF.

Recognizing the insufficient documentation of AnGR on the regional level the NCs, who have not already done so, should be encouraged to nominate one member per country for the WG Documentation and Information.

Therefore the Secretariat drafted a letter, which was adopted with smaller amendments by the SC and shall be sent to the respective NCs.

For establishing EFABIS as a database for the regional node for AnGR the Secretariat prepared a draft LoA between the ERFP-Secretariat and the individual European countries, which was circulated to the NC for their examination. This draft LoA was finally discussed and approved by the SC to be sent to the NCs for signature by the appropriate body..

A further problem is the development of a technical solution for the automatic data transfer from national nodes, which do not use the EFABIS software for their national inventory, to the regional node EFABIS. Germany and the EFABIS host want to test a solution by creating a file with a defined data exchange format. If this test fails the WG Documentation and Information should be asked to draft an *Ad hoc* Action for developing a technical solution for this problem.

In addition a report of the results from the first meeting of the EFABIS Management Committee, which was presented by Sebastian Winkel.

Elzbieta Martyniuk gave a detailed overview over the current work on an ABS regulation of the EU. The working paper of the European Commission focuses on the Benefit Sharing. In this regard the most important articles are the articles 4, 7 and 9. The base for the proposed rules is the intention of the Nagoya Protocol to implement a certification system for the legal transfer of AnGR. Article 7 rules the implementation of two checkpoints related to the research and to the market. Article 9 intends that the national authorities shall control the use of AnGR. The practicability of such a rule is questioned by the EU member states because of the therewith connected bureaucratic burden.

The members of the TF ABS were asked for their opinion about the results from the 7th session of the ITWG on AnGR and for examples of existing MTAs in November 2012. But the chair of the TF received no response. Frank Begemann recommended to direct this request not only to the TF members but to all European NC. Elzbieta Martyniuk announced to do so and to arrange a TF ABS meeting during the 14th CGRFA session.

The question was raised that a formalized procedure for the decision of *Ad hoc* Actions is needed. The Secretariat drafted a respective proposal, which was discussed and amended together with the SC. It shall be presented to the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. If the Assembly adopts this procedure, it will be added in the ToR.

The meeting was closed by Catherine Marguerat-König at 12:15.