

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

Chair: Asko Mäki-Tanila

Participants: Oya Akin, NC Turkey; Didier Bouchel, NC France; Elzbieta Martyniuk, NC Poland, Nina Sæther, NC Norway, Tamas Szobolevski, NC Hungary; Frank Begemann, Sebastian Winkel, Babette Balzer, ERFP Secretariat

ERFP Steering Committee Meeting

Asko Mäki-Tanila opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Sebastian Winkel was appointed as rapporteur. As asked by the SC members the topic "Changes of the EU zoo-technical legislation" was added to the agenda.

ERFP budget

Babette Balzer introduced and explained the current status of the country contributions to ERFP and the ERFP expenses.

Some countries like Turkey need a reference to the FAO in the letter on the country contributions. Oya Akin will prepare a draft letter and will provide it to the ERFP Secretariat. In the case that a country paid a higher contribution, this country shall be asked if they need therefore a specific letter. The draft of such a standard letter was accepted by the SC.

Regarding the rules for reimbursements some general questions were raised and clarified. Technical visits and social dinners (one per meeting) can be paid by ERFP. The draft version for the amendment (see annex) of the rules for reimbursements will be presented to the Assembly in Bratislava in August 2012 for consideration and adoption.

For the work of the ERFP Secretariat (incl. management of the ERFP website) 10,000 € were paid in 2011 and 2012. But according to the documented workload of the ERFP Secretariat the real costs of this task were more than 30,000 €. Currently, it is not intended to increase the budget for the ERFP Secretariat but institutions which are interested in taking over the function of the ERFP Secretariat should consider this gap between real costs and provided budget. Therefore, the report of the ERFP Secretariat to the Assembly shall quantify the achieved workload per year.

The multi-year balance of the country contributions and the expenses of ERFP shows a surplus of approximately 300,000 €. Nevertheless the NC should be still motivated to pay their contributions to keep the operability of ERFP. The ERFP Secretariat prepared a draft letter to EAAP questioning if returns of interests are possible. The draft was accepted by the SC with small remarks (see annex) and the letter will be sent by the ERFP Secretariat to EAAP as amended.

To improve the clarity of the financial report for the Assembly it was decided to focus only on the concerning year 2011 and skip the already known facts of the previous years.

The draft budget plan for 2013 will be prepared for the next SC meeting when the actual expenses for the ex situ workshop and funding of participation of NCs to the Assembly are known and shall be proposed to the Assembly in Bratislava.

Because of the current organisation of an *ad hoc* Action on ex-situ conservation by Sipke Hiemstra, the SC discussed possible options for funding. At least three options seemed to be practical and were proposed to Sipke Hiemstra via a phone call during the meeting. The options are

1. Accept the offered co-funding of the FAO by adapting the concerning LoA by mutual consent esp. regarding the unrealistic insurance obligation
2. Accept the co-funding offer by the FAO by signing the LoA by the local organiser "University of Zagreb"
3. Complete funding of the *ad hoc* Action by ERFP by using the surplus

ERFP Secretariat will get in touch with FAO on possible changes to the LoA but if option 1) cannot be pursued Sipke Hiemstra will inform the ERFP Secretariat about the further procedure.

ERFP Assembly 2012

The draft of the agenda for the Assembly meeting was presented by Babette Balzer. The SC agreed to the agenda with adding a further topic "AOB". The prepared invitations for the NC and for the observers to the Assembly meeting in Bratislava were accepted by the SC.

According to the ERFP Terms of Reference the Assembly shall decide about changes in the SC in 2012 because of the end of the four year term of office of Didier Bouchel and the SC Chair Asko Mäki-Tanila. Therefore the ERFP Secretariat will ask the NC for their nominations to the SC (and its chair) by email again. Babette Balzer presented an overview about the present and past SC members which shall be circulated to the NC after small formal changes. Based on this feedback the SC / Secretariat want to propose the successors for the SC and the SC Chair to the Assembly.

The SC and the ERFP Secretariat agreed that with a view to the agenda the local organiser should try and plan the technical visit / side event for Sunday afternoon. To get informed about the current status of the organisation of the technical visit and the social dinner Elzbieta Martyniuk will ask the local organiser for clarification and will inform the ERFP Secretariat.

After a discussion about the appreciated participation of a member of the European Commission Didier Bouchel expressed his willingness to contact the European Commission and invite them for the assembly in Bratislava. The interesting issues for the discussion with the European Commission member are the new EU zoo-technical legislation, the continuation of the Community Programme on the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Agriculture and the current situation of setting up agri-environmental measures in the Common Agricultural Policy.

Babette Balzer presented four options for the hotel in Bratislava and proposed to join the Tatra Hotel for the Assembly. The SC agreed with this proposal but wants to contact the local organiser and check availability at the EAAP venue (Bratislava University) . If the Secretariat does not hear anything until 5th April 2012 the Tatra Hotel will be booked.

In the case that the NC and the member of an ERFP WG/TF/AhA is the same person only this one person can get a reimbursement. An additional person from the same country as deputy for one of these functions will not get a reimbursement by ERFP.

A meeting of the SC with the FAO would be appreciated one day before the beginning of the Assembly in Bratislava. The beginning of the meeting shall be in the afternoon to ensure the in time arrival of the participants.

ERFP Working Groups and Task Forces

The SC recognized that the tasks of the task Force (TF) “Agri-environmental Measures” are finished. The result of the TF was circulated to the NC. The coordinator of this TF shall be thanked for her work at the Assembly meeting in Bratislava and the Task Force should formally be closed.

In preparation for the Assembly meeting the ERFP Secretariat shall ask the NC if they see the need for a new Task Force, so that the SC could provide a well prepared proposal ready for decision making at the Assembly. Furthermore, rules for the re-election of WG- or TF-coordinators shall be discussed and decided by the Assembly.

For establishing EFABIS as a database for the regional node for AnGR the ERFP Secretariat prepared a draft LoA between ERFP and the single European countries, which was circulated to the NC for their examination. Oya Akin and Elzbieta Martyniuk announced that they will send some comments soon.

The WG Documentation and Information shall be asked to develop an *ad hoc* Action to improve the entering of data on AnGR within the European countries and to support the transfer of these data to EFABIS. A further problem is the development of a technical solution for the automatic data transfer from the national nodes which do not use the EFABIS software for their national inventory to the regional node EFABIS. Currently Germany and the EFABIS host are testing a solution by creating a file with a defined formatting which could be easily imported into EFABIS. 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.

Regarding the TF ABS Frank Begemann informed about the planned FAO meeting on further developments after the Nagoya protocol on 10th - 14th September 2012 in Svalbard. The issues of this FAO meeting will be discussed at the European level on 27th – 29th June 2012 in Bonn. He circulated a list of participants of this meeting to the SC. It is planned that all members of the TF ABS attend the FAO meeting in Bonn.

FAO matters

Sebastian Winkel explained the procedure of the evaluation of the six European project proposals in the frame of the Trust Account of the FAO within ERFP. The ERFP Secretariat provided a ranking of the project proposals with comments to the single evaluation criteria to the FAO. Elzbieta Martyniuk is a member of the Bureau of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) which decides about funding of the project proposals. She informed that currently 25 project proposals from the whole world are now in a closer evaluation process. She will inform ERFP about the further progress in the project proposal evaluation of the FAO/CGRFA.

The current status of the preparation of the regional progress report for the FAO was presented by Babette Balzer. The draft of the report mentions *inter alia* projects funded by the European Community Programme on the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Agriculture. The SC asked the ERFP Secretariat to name these projects in the report.

EC 870/2004 „Community Programme on the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Agriculture”

The SC thanked the ERFP Secretariat for drafting the position paper for the continuation of this community programme and for the preparation of the final version considering the positions of the European countries. The European Commission is planning a meeting on this issue in June or July 2012 wherefore ERFP and other stakeholders shall be invited.

Changes of the EU zoo-technical legislation

Didier Bouchel and Tamas Szobolevski informed about the working paper of the European Commission on the planned changes in the EU zoo-technical legislation. To keep all European NC informed about these developments the ERFP Secretariat shall circulate this working paper.

The meeting was closed by Asko Mäki-Tanila at 5:15 pm.