

EAFP council meeting  
Berlin, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

## MINUTES

The meeting was attended by all council members: Jose Garcia (president), Patrick Smith (vice president), Ivona Mladineo (meeting secretary), Sean Monaghan (publications officer), Klaus Knopf (treasurer), Snježana Zrnčić (general secretary).

1) Status of action points from minutes of Las Palmas council meeting September 2015

All actions points done apart from most interesting picture published during last 5 years in the Bulletin. Selected pictures will be launched on the Facebook and the members will be invited to vote according to instructions listed in the amendment to the minutes.

2) President

a) Report

President participated as invited speaker in the workshop “Food Security for the Future: The role of Aquatic Animal Health”, October 22-23, 2015, arranged by and held at the Mississippi State University, USA .

He informed the council board about European College of Aquatic Animal Health (ECAAH) a division of European Board of Veterinary Specialisations (EBVS) an organisation of veterinarian experts and offering education and postgraduate courses. President sent them a letter offering expertise. It would be interesting to explore the possibility of cooperation with this organisation.

b) EAFP newsletter should be issued 3 times per year; January, May, September/October. EAFP members are invited to contribute for newsletter as well as to EAFP facebook profile.

Action:

In three weeks time the President will collect council members' contribution for the newsletter and collate it together.

c) FAO

President contacted FAO representative, Melba B. Reantaso, who expressed interest in cooperation. She has to find out how to manage this cooperation and support participation of researchers from developing countries to the EAFP conferences. There is a possibility to organise a workshop in cooperation with FAO and with their financial support. Once the agreement with FAO has been achieved the topic of the workshop will be discussed with them.

Action:

President and meeting secretary to contact FAO officer to start preparation of the workshop during the Belfast conference.

d) EAFP web page

Pros and cons of the Bulletin open access were discussed. The publishing of the Bulletin on line with secure access to the electronic version of the journal for members only in order to increase the impact factor should be developed. A new web consultant should be found to help the webmaster in his work because the last one resigned. The content of the members' area should be decided with inputs from branch officers and council members. Prompt info on local events is required as well.

Action:

GS will prepare a letter to branch officers with request to inform council board about meetings taking place locally and to ask for suggestions on what should be included in the membership area.

3) Vice president

a) Report

The Vice president suggested that the EAFP should fill a niche to approach the industry by including a session on the clinical cases in the conference program

b) Sustaining members update

There is a lot of consolidation in the industry; one is buying another with changes of position. Marine harvest resigned as an EAFP sustaining member and the vice president will try to target them to come back and to approach some small vaccine companies that might be interested in becoming a sustaining member.

Action:

Vice president will prepare the letter for current sustaining members with questions: what do they expect from the EAFP and another letter for potential sustaining members.

c) The possibility of collaborative links and joint activities between FEAP and EAFP.

Vice president approached FEAP on several occasions and also the Fish Vet Society but it seems that there is no big interest to collaborate. The EAS could also be approached but we should define in what specific area we could collaborate.

d) Small grants

Reports were received from two beneficiaries although the deadline was 29<sup>th</sup> of February. The grant was delivered in advance. The new small grant scheme will be announced for 2016. It will be 5 grants, the same as last year.

Actions:

Vice president will ask for still missing reports for the previous grants and ask the beneficiaries for a short contribution for the EAFP website.

Vice president will prepare announcement with stipulated criteria and information on the call for small grants will be included in the May newsletter.

e) Vice president informed about UK branch meeting in September in Stirling where 70 participants are expected.

f) Fish Vet Med Alliance

Vice president was invited to be a representative of EAFP in the organisation and he will keep the council board updated on the actions in the organisation from which EAFP could benefit from because of many hundreds of fish health experts gathered in the organisation

#### 4) General secretary

a) Report

The membership until 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 seems to be 848 members, almost the same as in 2015 but we should be aware that several countries still have not updated the membership nor collected fees. Currently the membership can be divided in 712 regular members, 76 student members, 8 honorary members, 37 library members and 15 sustaining members.

b) Data bases updating should be improved

To facilitate information exchange on members between EAFP administration, the treasurer and general secretary data base on the internet could be established.

Members should be contacted regarding data that should be published in the "members only" area; if they do not want to show some of their personal data they should inform branch officer and/or general secretary.

c) Statute updates and changes should be prepared for the next General Assembly during the Belfast conference in September 2017.

#### 5) Treasurer

a) Report

The current account balance was presented. A reliable estimation of the financial situation for 2016 is hardly possible because of a significant number of still outstanding membership fee payments.

b) The treasurer informed about the impact of variable exchange rates on the income through membership fees.

c) Due to a current request for refunding of membership cancellation the council has come to a decision that the usual practice for memberships and subscriptions should be followed. If an EAFP member has already paid for the current year, 2016, they will receive all related benefits during the continuation of this membership.

- d) Report of small grants beneficiaries: one report was submitted to the treasurer, one more to the vice president. The consequences of failing to report were discussed. See 3d).
  - e) Info on legal advices and registration of the organisation  
Suggestion of auditor on legal status and registration of the organisation was presented. Similar international organisations should be contacted and asked how they are organised.
- 6) Meetings secretary
- a) Report on questionnaire for 2015 conference  
Summary of the answers on the questionnaire prepared to evaluate satisfaction with the Las Palmas conference were presented. There were 97 answers rating the conference overall as very good. Several complaints on the restricted number of attendees on Histopathology workshop were noted. For the next conference efforts to increase the attendance of the General Assembly will be taken; public advertisement in Agenda, invitation to branch officers to collect topics to be discussed will be sent  
Action:  
To extract comments on the histopathology workshop and contact organisers (David Bruno and Barbara Nowak) and discuss with them the possibility to increase the number of participants.
  - b) 2017 conferences updates  
Belfast is in process of preparing for the conference. Council board visited place and the meeting secretary is in contact with local organizers.
  - c) Decision on 2019 conference venue  
A discussion about bids submitted to host the 2019 conference was established and a decision based on facilities, suggested schedule and a travel possibility was taken. The most suitable choice is Porto and it will be announced during General Assembly at the 2017 conference in Belfast.
  - d) Most interesting picture published in 2014 in the EAFP bulletin  
See under point 1.
- 7) Publications officer – detailed report is included in the amendment to the minutes.
- a) Report -The number of submitted manuscripts in 2015 was around average compared to previous years, but this includes two Special edition bulletins – therefore the actual numbers were lower. If we compare the number of MS. submitted up to and including April of this year, it is also relatively low compared with previous years. More accepted over rejected manuscripts seems to indicate higher quality MS being submitted. Mean time from submission to print is around 4 months. The main subject areas have been parasitology, histopathology and bacteriology while the Virology

conference Special addition and EAFP special edition articles have increased the number of accepted virology papers. Turkey and Malaysia have submitted the most EAFP bulletin articles.

b) Bulletin available online for members

- a. Possibility for testing tools for on line submission, peer review management to be discussed to webmaster. Open access see under point 2.d.

c) Most interesting picture published in 2014 in the EAFP bulletin

- a. See under point 1.

8) Any other business

Council board election should be announced by the end of the year and the voting should be organised through EAFP web page

*Action point:*

General secretary to contact EAFP webmaster and make all preparation

9) Next council meeting

Cambridge is a candidate for the next council meeting in September/October.