

EGF Business Meeting

30 June 2022, 11:30-12:30

University of Caen Normandy, Aula Magna, Caen (France)

President *Jean Louis Peyraud* (France) was in the chair

Minutes

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 11:30 with a welcome to all participants.

2. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting held online, 21 October 2020

The minutes of the previous *Business Meeting* as well as the agenda of the today's meeting were sent to the registered participants 10 days before the conference and in addition were displayed on a pinboard in the entrance hall during the whole conference for everyone to read. There were no comments to the minutes.

3. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 17 May 2021 (online) and 27 June 2022 (Caen, France)

The Executive Committee dealt with the following items:

- a) Programme of the 22nd EGF Symposium 2023 to be held in Lithuania
The *Executive Committee* accepted the programme proposal (item 4).
- b) Proposal for the 30th EGF General Meeting 2024 to be held in the Netherlands
The Executive Committee further accepted the proposal for holding the 30th EGF General Meeting 2024 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands (item 5).
- c) 23rd EGF Symposium in 2025
United Kingdom has expressed the willingness to organise the 23rd EGF Symposium in 2025. The Executive Committee was pleased with the offer and gave green light for further planning.
- d) Invitation for the 31st EGF General Meeting 2026
The EGF got an official invitation for 2026 by Portugal to host the 31st EGF General Meeting. The Executive Committee was delighted with the invitation and encouraged the Portuguese colleagues to go on with planning.
- e) EGF Fund
The Executive Committee took note of the fact that the EGF Fund is in a healthy state. The total assets as on 31-12-2021 amounted CHF 22'550.99 or EUR 21'764.19, respectively (1 EUR = 1.03615 CHF by 31 December 2021).

- f) EGF after 2021 – Strategy for the future, optimisation of the organisation and adaptation of the Constitution (to be approved today)

The Executive Committee has further developed and finalised the Constitution which has to be approved at today's Business Meeting (item 7).

- g) Nomination of new EGF Honorary Life Presidents

The Executive Committee has agreed on three candidates to be appointed EGF Honorary Life Presidents for their service to the EGF.

4. Progress report on the 22nd EGF Symposium 2023 on 'The future role of ley-farming in cropping systems' to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania

Šarūnaitė (Lithuania), the Chair of the Organising Committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. She invited everybody to attend the EGF Symposium on temporary grassland, which will be hosted by the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry and held on 11-14 June 2023.

5. Arrangements for the 30th EGF General Meeting 2024 proposed to be held in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands

Van den Pol-van Dassel (the Netherlands) presented the concept for the 30th EGF General Meeting, 10-13 June 2024 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The proposed theme of the meeting 'Why Grassland?' will focus on the value of grasslands. She invited everybody to attend the EGF General Meeting 2024 in the Netherlands.

6. Invitation to the XXV IGC 2023 on 'Grassland for Soil, Animal & Human Health' taking place 14-19 May in Kentucky, USA

Smith (USA), chair of the organising Committee, points to the book on 'The History of the International Grassland Congress – 1927 to 2020', which can be downloaded free of charge from the internet (<https://internationalgrasslands.org/publications>). He then invites those present to participate in the XXI International Grassland Congress IGC 2023, which will be held in Kentucky from 14-19 May 2023.

7. EGF after 2021 – Organisational changes and adjustment of the EGF Constitution

The Federation Secretary details the strategy process initiated in 2015 and concluded today with the adoption of the revised EGF Constitution. The member countries have been involved and informed in the process. Those present were sent the revised Constitution in preparation for today's meeting. The Executive Committee recommends that the revised Constitution be adopted, which the Assembly does with a round of applause. The new EGF Constitution will be published on the EGF website.

8. New EGF members; elections to the Executive Committee

New EGF members

There is no news from the EGF members, nor are there any applications for new memberships. It is possible to proceed directly to the elections:

Election of new EGF Honorary Life Presidents

The Executive Committee proposes the following three persons for election as new EGF Honorary Life Presidents: *Alan Hopkins* (United Kingdom), *Lars Nesheim* (Norway), *Piotr Stypinski* (Poland).

The three candidates were honoured yesterday in an early mini EGF Business Meeting on the occasion of the Conference Dinner and elected with applause as EGF Honorary Life Presidents. The *President* congratulates them again and looks forward to their continued support.

Elections to the Executive Committee

a) EGF President

Van den Pol-van Dasselaar (the Netherlands) is proposed as the new EGF President for the period 2022-2024, which was approved by the participants. Past President *Peyraud* continued to chair the Business Meeting.

b) Regional representatives

The following countries were elected in the Executive Committee and approved by the *EGF Business Meeting* to represent their region:

- Central Europe – Czech Republic
- Western Europe – Ireland
- Southern Europe – Portugal

The countries will be asked to nominate their representatives before the end of the year, especially young scientists in early to mid-career.

The Federation Secretary thanked *Krautzer* (Austria), *Peyraud* (France) and *Papachristou* (Greece) for having represented these regions during 2018-2022. He also thanked the Past-president *Seppänen* (Finland) for her active and valuable support during her term.

c) Representative of EGF Scientific Advisory Board SAB

The person will be appointed after the conference by the Federation Secretary in consultation with the 17-member panel (before the end of the year).

d) Representative of Honorary Life Presidents

The person will be determined by the Honorary Life Presidents themselves after the conference (before the end of the year).

e) Federation Secretary

Kessler (Switzerland) was re-elected for another term of two years. He emphasises that this will be his last term in office. For this reason, with the support of the Honorary Life Presidents, he has already started looking for a suitable successor who is willing to stand for election in two years' time: *Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar* (the Netherlands). The announcement was met with applause.

9. Reports

Report by *Elgersma* (The Netherlands), co-editor of *Grass and Forage Science*
Grass and Forage Science is a major English language journal that publishes the results of research and development, and reviews in all aspects of

- grass and forage production
- management and utilization
- bioenergy
- equine, recreational and amenity use
- environmental implications of all grassland systems

Detailed information about the journal

- Impact factor: 2.630
- ISI Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics) – 2020: 22/91 (Agronomy)
- Online ISSN: 1365-2494 (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13652494>)
- © John Wiley & Sons Ltd

Strengths of the journal

- International editorial team
- High quality (replications, statistics)
- Improved impact factor (2.630)
- Special issues or sections (EGF2020, EGF2022)

Grass and Forage Science welcomes

- Original articles
- Short communications
- Methods and technique notes
- Reviews

Reports on EGF Working Group activities – Working Group Grazing

Van den Pol-van Dassel (the Netherlands) reports from the workshop about “Grazing, innovation, animal welfare” held on Sunday before the conference that was attended by around 60 persons. The programme was very interesting and the participants were very active. A summary will be published on the EGF website later.

Report on the preparations of the XXVI IGC 2027 to be held in Leipzig, Germany

Pickert (Germany), representative of the organising committee, informs about recent developments. On 31 March 2022 the bid for hosting the XXVI International Grassland Congress 2027 in Leipzig, Germany, was submitted and on 17 June 2022 a letter was received confirming that the bid was accepted.

The XXVI International Grassland Congress 2027 on “100 years of grassland research – ways to the future” will take place 5-12 June 2027 in Leipzig, Germany.

The congress will be organised by the following host organisations:

- Leibniz Centre of Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
- Julius Kühn Institute – German Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI)
- Thünen Institute – German Federal Institute for Rural Studies, Forestry and Fisheries (TI)

Reserve the date. More information will follow in the coming years.

10. Any other business

Van den Pol-van Dassel (the Netherlands), the new EGF president, thanked *Peyraud* and the French organising committee for hosting this 29th EGF General Meeting in France. On behalf of all the participants she appreciated the great work, the perfect organisation, high scientific quality and the warm hospitality.

The outgoing president hands over the EGF flag from France to the Netherlands as a symbolic handover of responsibility for the next two years.

Van den Pol-van Dassel is looking forward to the new task and hopes to see many again in Vilnius in 2023 and Leeuwarden in 2024.

11. Closing

Peyraud thanked everyone for attending the 29th EGF General Meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home. He closed the Business Meeting at 12:20.

Rennes and Hedingen, 15 July 2022



Jean Louis Peyraud
President



Willy Kessler
Federation Secretary