



European Aerobiology Society
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4th General Assembly

10th November 2014

Vienna, Austria

MINUTES

Attendance: 40 participants.
Chairperson: Michel Thibaudon
Secretary: Ingrida Šaulienė

Agenda:

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| 17:00 – 17:05 | Opening and general information. <i>Michel Thibaudon</i> |
| 17:05 – 17:15 | Speech of EAS president. <i>Michel Thibaudon</i> |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | EAS membership and financial issues. <i>Uwe Berger</i> |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | EAN management. <i>Uwe Berger, Regula Gehrig</i> |
| 17:45 – 18:00 | Quality control. <i>Carmen Galan</i> |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | Basic and advanced course on aerobiology, next ESA. <i>Dorota Myszkowska, Ingrida Šaulienė, Michel Thibaudon</i> |
| 18:30 – 19:00 | Miscellaneous |

Opening and general information

Michel Thibaudon welcomed the Assembly and expressed his satisfaction that a lot of EAS members are participants of 4th General Assembly. The president mentioned that the year 2014 was challenging for aerobiology: the community has lost 4 very important scientists. Ingrid Šaulienė presented photos of her last meeting with Rui Brandao. Michel Thibaudon overviewed Siegfried Jäger's, Ruth M. Leuschner's and Carlo Lanzoni's impact on aerobiology.

Speech of EAS president

Michel Thibaudon noted that the EAS community works actively: both researchers personally and in working groups (WG). WG leaders are encouraged and will present about group activities during the Assembly. The president focused the attention on activities regarding European Legislation and informed that the Technical Sheet on airborne biological particles is under consideration in European Committee for Normalization.

EAS membership and financial issues

The EAS treasurer Uwe Berger presented EAS financial statement in period end 2013 till 2014-11-09. Presenter stated that 2014 EAS has 34 individual memberships and 2 statutory corporations (RNSA and AIA). The financial statement according to EAS account balance dated 2014-11-09 is:

Euro 63,98 on account
Euro 2.800 on hold
Euro 2.863,98 in total

Income 2013 – 2014-11-09 was 1.490 Euro, expenses per period except bank fees – 1.200 Euro (invoice database EAS).

Uwe Berger informed that SciCon closes EAS account. Financial issues in future will be carried out by Medical University of Vienna (MUW). For payment of membership (EAS+IAA) MUW will send invoices to each member personally. Only bank transferee will be accepted.

Bernard Clot returned formal aspects of membership transference to IAA. Michel Thibaudon pointed out that this issue should be solved during the next two years. Carmen Galan mentioned that she will get in contact with Aerobiologia to solve the issue with missing access codes. Participants of the Assembly interested in possibilities to have also codes for Grana journal.

EAN management

Regula Gehrig indicated that the EAN is very important for the EAS and that item 14 of European Aerobiology Society Statute stated “The Committee establishes a minimum of a working group in charge of the future of the European Aeroallergen Network EAN and a working group in charge of education”. A close collaboration and a participation of the EAS in the EAN management (EAN board) are important.

Uwe Berger mentioned that EPI was sent to dormancy due to Jean Emberlin’s retirement and the illness of Siegfried Jäger at the end of 2012. Since 2013 EAN is maintained and developed under the patronage of the Medical University of Vienna. Hard- und software is not property of MUV but MUV supports activities of EAN with human resources. Since 2014 M. Kmenta is full time employed by the MUW for EAN. Research group has now the following members K. Bastl, U. Berger, C. Jäger, M. Kmenta and O. Prentovic (20 hours). All this team is working on further software developments for better cooperation, data input and for quality control. It is necessary forcing cooperation and data selling with pharmaceutical companies and scientific projects.

After EPI will be closed officially, a new legal body must be established together with EAS with the OK from EPI shareholders and EAS, new contracts have to be set up with data providers. A board of directors has to be established in the frame of EAS together with “guests” out of EAS. Yearly “EAN-EAS meeting” will be dealing with scientific issues, financial issues and quality control.

Quality control

Carmen Galan presented the activities of the QC group. Information about the last group activities is published in Galán, C., Smith, M., Thibaudon, M., Frenguelli, G., Oteros, J., Gehrig,

R., U. Berger, B. Clot, R. Brandao, EAS QC Working Group. (2014) Pollen monitoring: minimum requirements and reproducibility of analysis. *Aerobiologia*, 30(4), pp 385-395.

The new Quality Control survey is focussed on Ambrosia pollen identification. Around 17 laboratories expressed an interest to take part in this exercise. Due to the same slides use laboratories from different countries assessment of slides are not finished. Branko Šikoparija said that this activity is closely associated with one of the aims of COST FA1203 SMARTER. The chairman Michel Thibaudon supported this idea and encouraged other countries to take part in this QC action.

The QS group is also carrying out surveys of the participants of the European aerobiology course and ensures the organization and quality of the course implementation. The attendees agreed that this is very important in shaping the future of research teams. Carmen Galan noted that in the future the education environment will be strengthened with the joint PhD study program in Aerobiology. The Erasmus plus program could be a financial mechanism to implement the program.

Basic and advanced course on aerobiology, next ESA

Dorota Myszkowska presented the information about the 12th European Course on Basic Aerobiology which will be held on 20-26 July, 2015 in Rzeszów, Poland. The course is aimed at students and scientists who are at the beginning of their research in aerobiology. The 12th ECBA will include lectures and practical sessions by leading experts in aerobiology. During the exercises the participants will learn to identify 30 types of pollen grains and 12 types of fungal spores and how to scan microscopic slides. The course will end with theoretical and practical exams. All participants who will pass exams successfully will receive an international certificate. The number of participants is limited to 25. For registration and more information <http://www.ur.edu.pl/wydzialy/biologiczno-rolniczy/wydarzenia/12th-ecba>.

Ingrida Šaulienė said she is proud that Šiauliai University will host the 8th Advanced Aerobiology Course from the 16th to 22nd August, 2015. The course will combine a variety of lectures and practical sessions (including field work in nature) with the aim to explore and analyse aerobiological data from the different point of view. One day (in the middle of the course) will be designed for participants to explore Lithuania. Ingrida Šaulienė presented that contemporary aerobiologist it is important not only to collect the data but also to know the best possible way to interpret it with understanding causal relationships resulting from anthropogenic air pollution, global climate and change of land use. Course teachers will focus on applying the up-to-date associated data (mycological, phenological, botanical) in aerobiology and on developing the advanced modelling skills using climate/meteo or land use databases. Course participants will work on the real data provided by the course teachers or will be given a chance to use their own (important to themselves) data. The web page where the information can be found is <http://ekomokslas.lt/aac2015/>

EAS president Michel Thibaudon mentioned that RNSA, AFEDA and Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University welcome all for the 6th European Symposium on Aerobiology of the European Aerobiology Society in Lyon in 13-16 July, 2016. The main points of the program will include: the Aerobiology session – monitoring, modelling forecasting, Botany, Phenology, Melissopalynology, Agriculture, Ragweed day in partnership with IRS (International Ragweed Society), Fungal spores (outdoor, indoor), Pollen and moulds allergy, diagnostic, prevention, therapy, Climate change, Environmental studies – air pollutants, meteorology and etc.

interesting places in Lyon were presented as well. For more information:
<http://www.alphavisa.com/esa/2016/index.php>

IAA president Bernard Clot announced the next ICA. He informed that Italian Aerobiology Association with the support of the University of Parma will organize the 11th ICA in Parma (Italy). Symposium will be held on 3-7 September, 2018.

MACC EAN cooperation

Mikhail Sofiev informed about a requested cooperation of pollen forecasting (modelling) with air quality. He has experimental/limited-scale trial for birch since the 2013 and results show possibilities of a possible cooperation of MACC and EAN. This can lead to sustainable funding for pollen networks at national and EU level. Funding reserved in the Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service for pollen (~€125k/year until end-2020).

Mikhail Sofiev suggested that the collaboration Copernicus/EAN start from Memorandum of Understanding. Interaction can be focussed on observational data concentration, quality control, interpretation and continuation of joint lobbying efforts to secure sustainable EAN funding. R&D: evaluation and development of pollen forecasts, linking with national efforts, personalized symptoms forecasts. Contract and annual work plans can be established from spring 2015.

Participants discussed on these issues. The main decision was send to EAN board.

Chairman of the General Assembly thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

The Chairman

Michel Thibaudon

Secretary

Ingrida Šaulienė