



European Aerobiology Society
c/o Meteo Swiss
att. Dr. B. Clot, case postale 316
CH-1530 Payerne
<http://eas.polleninfo.org/>

1st EAS Committee meeting

9th November 2014
Vienna, Austria

MINUTES

Attendances: 11 EAS Committee members.

Chairperson: Michel Thibaudon
Secretary: Ingrida Šaulienė

Agenda

15:45 – 15:50	Opening and general information. <i>Michel Thibaudon</i>
15:50 – 16:00	EAS activities 2012-2014. <i>Michel Thibaudon</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Quality control. <i>Carmen Galan</i>
16:20 – 16:40	EAS membership and financial issues. <i>Uwe Berger</i>
16:40 – 17:00	EAN Management. <i>Regula Gehrig</i>
17:00 – 17:25	Basic and advanced course on aerobiology, next ESA. <i>Dorota Myszkowska, Ingrida Šaulienė, Michel Thibaudon</i>
17:25 – 17:30	Agenda of the general Assembly of November 10 th . <i>Michel Thibaudon</i>
17:30 – 18:00	Miscellaneous

Opening and EAS activities 2012-2014

Michel Thibaudon welcomed attendees and announced that Bernard Clot is invited to participate as IAA president. Everyone congratulated Bernard Clot by applauding him. Michel Thibaudon noted that the cooperation of both societies (IAA and EAS) is crucial for the future development of aerobiology.

After a discussion of the agenda the president of EAS asked everybody about a personal development in the professional area. He noted that EAS is really active and reported that at the European Committee for Normalisation (CEN) a discussion has started regarding the normalization of a Technical Sheet on airborne biological particles. The fact that the impact of pollen on health is not regulated by law till now demonstrates the need for a first step to normalization to bring this thematic to a legal status. Maybe we should focus not only on the health aspects, but also to focus on the issue of air pollution?

Michel Thibaudon invited the working group leaders to present the work that is/was carried out.

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. 25 counters/teams from 17 countries expressed an interest to take part in this exercise. Due to the same slides are used by laboratories from different countries, the assessment of slides are not finished. Branko Sikoparija provided material to participants and he presents this activity as 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 QC group also proposed to carry out surveys for 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 doctoral program in the aerobiology area. The Erasmus plus program could be a financial mechanism to implement the program.

Michel Thibaudon pointed out that in the nearest future it is important to propose united minimum requirements for spores identification and count. The attendees discussed that doctors often do not pay attention to airborne spores despite the fact that in certain periods of time its concentration is very high. The common opinion was that such information is necessary and we have to define the quality of the identification. In addition, knowledge about the airborne spores concentration is necessary for the farms of crop production to control plant pathologies, said Carmen Galan.

Uwe Berger reported that we have to also carry out QC in the EAN database. We have noticed that sometimes data providers provide atypical amounts or on atypical time. We inform them about such cases and ask them to specify.

EAS membership and financial issues

The EAS treasurer Uwe Berger presented that on November of 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 noted that the account cannot stay longer at SciCon because the company is a profit-making organization and has to pay income taxes. He informed the attendees that it is possible to use the account of Medical University of Vienna. He spoke with the financial department of Medical University of Vienna about this issue and got the approval. Money is safe on this account and not tax relevant (VAT and income tax). There is one issue: if the account is transferred to Medical University of Vienna EAS has not longer the possibility to get the membership fee paid by credit card. Invoices must be paid by bank transfer. Chairman of the meeting asked for discussion on this issue and encourage each member to express the

approval/ disapproval. No one from the participants was against or abstained because of the changes. Motion was approved:

1. EAS Committee supports transfer of the EAS account to Medical University of Vienna.
2. Two signatures are required for account management in case of spendings.

In the discussion about the membership the question came up regarding the union with the IAA. The idea was unanimously maintained that EAS cannot act by ignoring IAA because EAS is a part of the IAA: However, some misunderstandings can arise due to the dual membership and fees. All agreed on the fact that EAS members pay one fee in total. The full EAS membership fee is 90€ for a period of two years, where the two annual fees for IAA (40 US\$ each) are included and will be transferred to IAA. For example, if you have already paid the 2010 membership fee for IAA (40 US\$), then you can become member of EAS for 30€ (fee for 2010 and 2011). IAA has to invoice EAS, according to the invoice the membership fees for IAA will be transferred to IAA account. Letty de Weger noticed that the membership fees people fail to pay not only because of the duality but also because they simply forget to pay. Uwe Berger assured that January of 2015 an online database will be launched with the possibility to send automatically invoices and reminders. IAA can also use the same software/program. It is important to harmonize access to Aerobiologia. Carmen Galan promised to provide an open access code as soon as Uwe Berger reports about the paid membership fee.

The president of IAA Bernard Clot joined the conversation and said that there was no IAA committee meeting yet, therefore, it's only his opinion. He is worried about the formal aspect. It would be better that people paid individually for each membership. However, he also noticed that when Pan-American Aerobiology Association (PAAA) separated the local society membership fees from IAA, the latter organisation has lost many members.

EAN Management

Uwe Berger took attention to EAN database management. After EPI has been sent into dormancy EAN was transferred to Medical University of Vienna. Here data are safe, University gives access to the Internet, does not charge for electricity and etc. Since 2014 Maximilian Kmenta is employed as database administrator for EAN database. The first problem is that EAN cannot survive without financial support. EANpoll software will not work on former Windows versions and programming work must be paid. The second problem is EAN data management. For example, pharmaceutical companies show willingness to use data but are not ready to do contracts with all data providers. Who are (will be) responsible for data quality in case of an accident in clinical trials? Uwe Berger asked the Committee to organize board for EAN management.

Regula Gehrig indicated that EAN is very important for the EAS and that it is stated in the statutes item 14 of European Aerobiology Society: "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".

Participants discussed on the questions that came up with this issue. Consensus was reached that the EAS should be involved in the management of EAN. The chairman suggested that the EAN board should be formed of three members from EAS committee and 2 from outside. The attendees were invited to offer candidates. By consensus of all attendees Uwe Berger, Regula Gehrig, Michel Thibaudon were elected for the EAN board.

Basic and advanced course on aerobiology, next ESA

Ingrida Šaulienė informed that Polish aerobiological team cannot attend the Committee meeting and that she will present 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 stated that 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 for 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/>

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>

Agenda of the 4th General Assembly

Michel Thibaudon informed participants that all issues analysed today will be transferred to the society during the 4th General Assembly which will be on 10th of November. Mikhail Sofiev suggested to add a discussion on MACC and got support from the participants of Committee meeting.

Chairman of the Committee meeting thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

Chairman
Michel Thibaudon

Secretary
Ingrida Šaulienė



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2nd Committee meeting

10th November 2014

Vienna, Austria

MINUTES

Attendances: R. Albertini, U. Berger, K. C. Bergmann, C. Galan, R. Gehrig, D. Myszkowska, V. Rodinkova, I. Sauliene, E. Severova, B. Sikoparija, M. Sofijev, M. Thibaudon, L. De Weger.

Chairperson: Michel Thibaudon

Secretary: Ingrida Šaulienė

Agenda

19:00 – 19:30 EAS EAN board establishment

19:30 – 19:45 Miscellaneous

EAS EAN board establishment

Michel Thibaudon informed that this meeting is important for EAS EAN board establishment. During the 1st Committee meeting we decided that board should consist of 5 persons (4 from EAS + 3 “outside”) and from EAS elected Roberto Albertini, Carmen Galan, Regula Gehrig, Michel Thibaudon. Because Uwe Berger is EAN manager, it would be better when he does not take part as EAS delegate. Following the discussion about MACC-EAS cooperation, it will be important to have Mikhail Sofijev in the board. For this reason we should make corrections and the EAS EAN board should include not less than 7 members. As additional member from EAS Carmen Galan was elected and invited. Karl-Christian Bergmann, Ondřej Rybníček will take part as “outside” of EAS members. After short discussion all participant accepted proposed amendment.

EAS EAN board: Roberto Albertini, Carmen Galan, Regula Gehrig, Michel Thibaudon, Uwe Berger, Mikhail Sofiev, Karl-Christian Bergmann, Ondřej Rybníček.

Chairman
Michel Thibaudon

Secretary
Ingrida Šaulienė