



European Aerobiology Society  
c/o Meteo Swiss  
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<http://eas.polleninfo.org/>

**Telephone conference**

2016, April 22

## MINUTES

Date of approval 05/07/2013

Participants: IAA president Giuseppe Frenguelli, EAS president Michel Thibaudon, IAA Vice President Bernard Clot, EAS General Secretary Ingrida Šaulienė, Treasurers Uwe Berger and Rui Brandão.

Chairperson: Michel Thibaudon

Secretary: Ingrida Šaulienė

Agenda:

- Economic aspects
- Operating structure
- Other points

The conference was organized by telephone. Discussions started without Bernard Clot.

### Economic aspects

Chair introduced, that the telephone conference is for making decisions on certain economic issues. Several ideas have been suggested, however we must do all that is needed to fulfil our main objective – increasing the number of members both in IAA as well as EAS. It is obvious that IAA and EAS must work hand in hand. The opinion was supported by all participants of the discussion.

Michel Thibaudon delivered that Uwe Berger has earlier provided him with the list of EAS members and asked Giuseppe Frenguelli if he could do the same for the IAA. Giuseppe Frenguelli agreed that the list could be prepared by Dorota Myszkowska (IAA secretary). Rui Brandão made a point that about 3 months ago Dorota Myszkowska has forwarded the latest list to Uwe Berger and himself. According to the database list, IAA currently has around 2000

members. The database that records the members after tax, however, reflects on 150 members. Rui Brandão is currently working on this matter, in order to harmonize both databases. Giuseppe Frenguelli agreed that it is crucial for the situation to be clear, however management of the database is complicated. Michel Thibaudon made an example of his own. He is paying for 3 independent members and for RNSA, which has 60 members itself. The question is, who do we consider a member? Individual person or a group of people? Giuseppe Frenguelli said that this discussion should continue in Vinnitsa (Ukraine) where aerobiologists will teach students during the 10th European Course in Aerobiology. Michel Thibaudon said that the decision on who is the real member (individual or associated) should definitely be made there. Rui Brandão made a point that most of the members in DM database are nationals. Should every single of them be granted access to Aerobiologia? Michel Thibaudon asked all the participants of the discussion to express their opinion on the matter. Unanimously, the participants have agreed that login and password could be granted only to individuals members.

### Operating structure

Michel Thibaudon said that EAS membership fee includes 2-year EAS membership and an IAA associated member status. Rui Brandão mentioned that this year IAA has received 15 payments from individual members and 2 from associated ones. He made a point on the fact that according to Springer agreement, the minimum number of users must be at least 50, while up to date there are only 30. This may be the reason for Springer to terminate the contract. Therefore, this is again another reason to encourage members pay their membership fee. Rui Brandão has promised to motivate members to pay. Rui Brandão also mentioned that a lot of people paid for both IAA and EAS (e.g. RNSA). However, in certain cases someone is not aiming to be part of EAS, but only of IAA. Michel Thibaudon confirmed that if a person is an EAS member, that implies s/he is an IAA member either (not vice versa). Rui Brandão said that he has received complaints from Estelle Levetin regarding the lack of information from EAS.

Michel Thibaudon said that there exists a proposal to merge some EAS and IAA management functions. The idea, proposed by Bernard Clot and approved by Rui Brandão, is to have one executive person, for example in Payerne, to make only the management of the current administrative and financial aspects of both societies. Operating instruction (what, where, when and etc.) needs to be prepared. Michel Thibaudon is going to ask Bernard Clot to prepare a brief document for the discussion of the matter, which will be taken further during the meeting in Vinnitsa. Michel Thibaudon noticed that despite what has been mentioned earlier, the associations should not dissociate: American or European associations are filial IAA structures.

### Other points

The Chairman announced that another very important question is European Aeroallergen Network (EAN). It is an extremely huge job made by Siegfried and Christoph Jäger, Uwe Berger and many other people from Vienna. Now it is time to discuss how to manage this structure at the scientific level. It was discussed with Uwe and Siegfried that it is necessary to create a Scientific Board. Members of the board could be Uwe Berger, Siegfried Jäger, Bernard Clot, Michel Thibaudon, K.C. Bergman, Ingrida Šaulienė, Carmen Galan, Roberto Albertini and Giuseppe Frenguelli. They should be tackling data handling principles, and take strategic

(political) decisions. Uwe Berger noted that it was him to propose the idea for the need of such Scientific Board in the first place, mainly because there are several very important aspects to tackle: data handling principles, income for database maintenance, information updates and other system backing up problems. It was agreed that this question must be solved in the nearest future. Due to the fact that most of potential Scientific Board members are planning to participate in EAACI-WAO World Allergy & Asthma congress 22 – 26 June 2013 in Milan (Italy), it was decided that the discussion will continue to take place there.

Bernard Clot joined the conversation. Michel Thibaudon notified that the members of the telephone conference are asking Bernard Clot to make a proposal for an operational structure for the associations. Bernard Clot suggested that a person (office) is needed, who would provide continuous information to both IAA and EAS (and maybe other) committees, as well as supervise incomes and membership dynamics. He also said that Rui Brandão has already made a similar suggestion (“I think that both societies should undergo a gradual change for a single and uniform system for access and payments, not dependent, among other features, on the nationality of current treasurer, with a reinforcement of internet banking and a substantial reduce of charges over transactions”). When Bernard Clot asked whether different systems are needed or whether one would be enough, Michel Thibaudon assured that two accounts are necessary. Bernard Clot said that in the nearest future he is having a meeting for with the Board of Directors of MeteoSwiss where he is planning to ask for support to develop such a structure in Payerne.

When Rui Brandão came back to the membership fee and member database question, Bernard Clot said that IAA has more than 10 years experience in this. Conference participants once again pointed out that membership numbers, fees and other aspects are being managed poorly. Uwe Berger suggested an internet-based database which could be accessed via personalised login codes. It was agreed that Dorota Myszkowska is going to send Uwe Berger all the information needed and he on his behalf will do all the programming works. On such a note, a new and updated database will be available before the meeting in Milan.

Michel Thibaudon informed that the French normalization Agency (AFNOR) together with the German team have started working on a proposal to European Committee for Standardization in the aim of an European regulation of atmospheric pollen and spore survey, for allergy information. It was decided by AFNOR and VDI to make a proposal during the meeting of the CEN/TC 264 for NWI (New Work Item) to develop a CEN/TS (Technical Sheet) which will be the first step for an European CEN standard. Conference participants expressed their support for the initiative.

Chairman of the conference thanked all participants and closed the meeting. Leaving greetings were exchanged.

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The Chairman  
Michel Thibaudon

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General Secretary  
Ingrida Šaulienė