

International Ragweed Society (I.R.S.)
PAYERNE - Switzerland

REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY October 2011 - MINUTES

Date: Thursday October 6th, from 17:30 to 19:30

Location: Monte Verita Ascona, Switzerland.

Agenda

Welcome address, attendance list

- 1) Minutes of the last General Assembly
- 2) Annual report
- 3) Financial report
- 4) Report of the auditors
- 5) Decision on membership fees
- 6) Reports of the working groups, presentation of each
- 7) Creation of an International Ragweed Day
- 8) Decision on the next International Ragweed Conference which will be held in LYON on 28-29 March 2012, just before the meeting AMBROSIA 2012 on 29-30 March
- 9) Modification of the statutes (see proposal below)
- 10) Miscellaneous

Participants: Bernard CLOT, Michel THIBAUDON, Henriette MEON, Chantal DECHAMP, Tamas KOMIVES, Gerhard KARRER, Heinz MULLER, Maira BONINI, Guillaume FRIED, Pierre EHRET, Dominique COUTINOT, Yaacuby TUVIA, Veronika KOMIVES, Gabriel POPOW, Uwe STARFINGER, Bruce OSBOME, Bojan KOSTANTINOVIC, Ingrida SAULIENE, Benjamin GARD, Quentin MARTINEZ, Ahmet HULUDAG, Javid KASHEFI.

Meeting: Chairperson: Tamas KOMIVES
Secretary: Michel THIBAUDON

President Tamas KOMIVES gave the welcome address to members and new participants. He informed the Assembly that only the members having paid their fees before the convocation can vote, but everybody is welcome for the discussion.

1) Minutes of the last General Assembly

The General Secretary read the main parts of the minutes of the last General Assembly whose location was at MeteoSwiss in Payerne on November 15th, 2010. Everybody agreed with this report and the Minutes were accepted.

2) Report of the President

2011 was a rich year only for the dissemination about ragweed in different scientific conferences. There was one in Honolulu, Hawaii, one International conference on agri-environmental pollution with a ragweed session (Budapest, Hungary) and the actual meeting about invasive plant in Ascona.

The President urged the heads of Working Groups to be more active and he will ask them to write progress reports and present them at the next International Ragweed Congress in Lyon in 2012.

The president thanked Uwe Starfinger for his excellent work about spread and control of ragweed.

3) And 4) Report of the Treasurer

C. Bohren, who could not attend the General Assembly informed us that IRS has 29 members who have paid their fees for 2010. The accounts being so simple in this first year, with no expenses, it was not necessary to contact the auditors. It will be done next year.

5) Decision on membership fees

The members thought that it was not necessary to modify the fees for 2012; the amounts are 10 euro for individual members, 5 euro (50% reduction) for students and retired persons, and 100 euro for institutional members. There is still only one institutional member which is Conseil General du Rhône. C. Bohren will send the call for 2011-2012 fees before the end of 2011.

6) Reports of the Working Groups

Bernard Clot listed the different WGs, and indicated that the members were more active individually than for the WG.

Michel Thibaudon presented the reports he received from Italy (Maira Bonini) and France (RNSA): these presentations will be on the website of IRS.

Chantal Dechamp proposed a new WG about the pollen flux method on the ground surface. Bernard Clot proposed to include this as a subgroup of the pollen monitoring WG. Every member approved this proposal.

7) International Ragweed Day

Tamas Komives presented his idea to create an international day about ragweed. The main goals are to disseminate information at every level from the politicians to the general public necessary to promote the control of ragweed.

It was proposed that each continent should have its own ragweed day, such as European Ragweed Day, etc. During the last Committee Meeting, the decision was to propose the first Saturday of summer as ragweed day. For 2012, it will be June 23rd.

Every country must promote this ragweed day using the name they prefer as Ambrosia Day and so on. The first communication will be done by the President then one correspondent of every country will have to disseminate the communication in his country.

8) International Ragweed Conference

Tamas Komives confirmed the date and location of the next International Ragweed Conference. Michel Thibaudon explained that this congress will be in Lyon (France), during 1,5 day on March 28th and 29th 2012. The location will be in a university in the centre of Lyon. The congress organised by French ragweed observatory will be also in Lyon in March 29th afternoon and 30th. Quentin Martinez presented this congress and gives to us specific flyer.

Tamas Komives inform that during IRC only scientific work must be presented, we would like to have 20-25 communications and 20-25 posters. WGs must present their main work during this congress. It is discussed about the possibility to publish the communication in an international scientific journal.

Chantal Dechamp proposed the journal of AFEDA International Ragweed, Bruno Chauvel sent another proposal. Tamas Komives will examine the different possibilities and will make a decision about this point.

Michel Thibaudon presents a provisional budget. With the fix costs and the cots per person it is necessary to propose a registration fee of 150 euro. Ambrosia 2012 will be at 50 euro because there is financial support. In case of double registration, IRC will accept 140 euro and we hope that Ambrosia 2012 will accept 40 or 45 euro.

For IRC we need to have more than 40 participants with payment. If there is more and positive results, IRC will reimburse for instance one night of hotel.

Bernard Clot thinks that it is necessary to propose a subtitle for this congress, “Scientific basis, knowledge” and “Scientific knowledge approach” were proposed. The President will inform the members about the choice which will be done with a specific flyer. Michel Thibaudon shows a proposal a flyer which will be corrected and completed by Bernard Clot and Tamas Komives.

This Flyer will be sent before November 5th the two deadlines were decided:

- December 15th for the title of the communication or poster and the name of the main author
- January 15th for the complete abstract.

Tamas Komives hoped that this congress will be a success but we all need to work hard to achieve this goal. We have to spread the news about this meeting and invite participants.

9) Modifications of the statutes

Bernard Clot presented the old and the new versions of the Statutes and indicated that the main goal was to organize a general assembly every two years. But nothing prevents to have extraordinary assemblies during this period.

Here are the old and new versions of the two articles of the Statutes which were involved in this proposal

[OLD] 10.The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association. It is open to all members. The Regular General Assembly shall meet **every year** and normally this would coincide with the International Ragweed Conference or, on years when this Conference does not take place, with a congress which topic is related to ragweed.

19. Date of adoption

These Statutes have been adopted by the constituting Assembly on 02.10.2009, and came into force on the same date.

[NEW] 10.The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association. It is open to all members. The Regular General Assembly shall meet **every two years** and normally this would coincide with the International Ragweed Conference or, on years when this Conference does not take place, with a congress which topic is related to ragweed.

19. Date of adoption

These Statutes have been adopted by the constituting Assembly on 02.10.2009, **modified by the General Assembly on 06.10.2011**, and came into force on the same date.

The President approved this proposal and proposed the vote:

Against: 1

Abstention: 0

In favour: 10

The modification of the articles 10 and 19 are accepted.

10) Miscellaneous

The President asked if there were some other questions.

He concluded the General Assembly by thanking the participants and by a wish for a better activity of the WG.

He hoped that the two main points which are I.R.C. in Lyon and the International Ragweed Days will be a great success.

He closed the meeting at 19:00

The President
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The Secretary General
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