

International Ragweed Society

First Extraordinary General Assembly

**Nyon, Switzerland
December 6, 2009**

IRS - Nyon, 2009

Scientific meetings

1st International Ragweed Conference
September 10-13, 2008, Budapest, Hungary

***2nd International Symposium on Intractable
Weeds and Plant Invaders***
September 14-18, 2008, Osijek, Croatia

European Symposium on Ambrosia
November 21-23, 2008, Aix-les-Bains, France



Conclusions of the conferences (official)

"Call for action"

- ❖ **Ragweed is spreading** actively throughout Europe. Results: crop yield losses and *ca.* 15 % of population allergic to pollen. The invasions should be contained.
- ❖ The participants want to **inform on the dangers and require measures** adapted to prevent further spread.
- ❖ Adequate management will require **concerted and continued work** over a **longer period of time**.
- ❖ Participants **urge governments** to take the issue seriously and respond with appropriate action.

Further conclusions (unofficial) - state of art

- ❖ **Good conferences** in 2008, lots of new findings
 - we know a lot, but not enough
- ❖ Seem to have all the **tools** – but they **are inadequate** at the system level (ragweed keeps spreading)
- ❖ A high-level, strong, **coordinated action is needed** (local, government, EU)
- ❖ **Research**, too, should be **better coordinated and better funded**
 - more data are needed in many areas: aerobiology, biology, ecology, spread of pollen, weed control, etc.
 - international cooperation, EU, global
- ❖ **How to act?** ----- **International Ragweed Society**
 - Lorenzo Cecchi, yours truly
 - enthusiastic support by L. Kiss, M. Thibaudon, B. Clot, P. Comtois, C. Bohren, M.-A. Chappier-Laboissière

Origins of the Society

❖ **Foundation** – Nyon, October 2, 2009

- **Chair and Co-Chair:** Bernard Clot and Michel Thibaudon
- **Participants:** Christian Bohren, Marie-Agnès Chappier-Laboissiere, Bernard Clot, Paul Comtois, Levente Kiss, Tamas Komives, Michel Thibaudon

❖ **First Committee Meeting**

– **Board**

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| » President | T. Komives |
| » Secretary General | M. Thibaudon |
| » Vice President | B. Clot |
| » Treasurer | C. Bohren |
| » Webmaster | L. Kiss |

❖ **Statutes** – B. Clot

Aims of the Society

- ❖ **promote** the knowledge concerning ragweed and to further its development
- ❖ **facilitate** collaboration, research, education, information, technical development, practical applications and laws concerning ragweed and its direct and indirect impacts, as well as fight against that plant
- ❖ **create** a platform for the persons, associations, societies and institutions with an interest in ragweed
- ❖ **elect** the organizing bodies of the International Ragweed Conferences
- ❖ **encourage** collaboration with other areas related to environmental and health issues

Actions by the Society

- ❖ organizing courses, educational programmes
- ❖ coordinating or supporting projects
- ❖ suggesting quality standards and quality controls
- ❖ encouraging young researchers
- ❖ developing fighting actions
- ❖ managing data bases, etc.

Members of the Society

- ❖ private individuals and collective bodies - Committee
- ❖ honorary members (outstanding contribution) - General Assembly

Constituent bodies of the Society

- ❖ General Assembly
- ❖ Committee
- ❖ Auditors

The General Assembly

supreme body of the Society, open to all members, meets every year

- ❖ elects the members of the Committee and the Auditors
- ❖ establishes and amends the Statutes
- ❖ approves the annual report, the accounts and the Auditors' report
- ❖ approves the reports of working groups
- ❖ takes decisions on membership fees
- ❖ suggests new activities in accordance with the Statutes
- ❖ decides on all matters presented in the agenda by the Committee
- ❖ elects the organizing body of the next International Ragweed Conference
- ❖ considers the appeal of expelled members
- ❖ elects Honorary Members

The Committee

3 to 9 members appointed for four years (may be re-appointed)

- ❖ appoints the members of its **Secretariat**: President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Vice-president and Webmaster
- ❖ takes any initiative to meet the aims of the Association
- ❖ sets up working groups, specify their tasks and appoint their members
- ❖ establishes rules for matters not provided for in the present Statutes
- ❖ proposes Honorary Members to the General Assembly (GA)
- ❖ calls GAs
- ❖ presents the annual report and the accounts at the GA
- ❖ implements the decisions of the GA
- ❖ keeps the minutes at GAs and Committee meetings
- ❖ decides on member admissions or expulsions
- ❖ submits proposals for the organization of the next International Ragweed Conference to the GA

The Secretariat

Represents the IRS, conducts current business, runs the administration, maintains the website

Auditors

two auditors for two years (may be re-appointed) – GA

- ❖ audit the accounts and conduct occasional checks at least once every financial year
- ❖ GA may also appoint a deputy as a substitute
- ❖ the Auditors present a written report to the GA for every financial year

Working groups

- ❖ on a decision of the Committee for a defined period of time
- ❖ perform specific tasks for the IRS
- ❖ report regularly on their work to the Committee
- ❖ present a written report to the GA

International Ragweed Conference

- ❖ Committee proposes, GA elects the body responsible for organizing
- ❖ takes place at least every four years
- ❖ can be associated to other meetings

Thank you for your attention!