

**International Ragweed Society (I.R.S.)**  
**BERN - SWITZERLAND**

## Committee meeting- February 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 - MINUTES

**Date:** Saturday 2015 February 28<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** University of Bern – Institute of Plant Sciences

**Chairpersons:** Maira BONINI, Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER and Michel THIBAUDON

**Agenda:**

1. Welcoming members
2. Modification of the Statute: define and include the "Past President"
3. IRS website: reorganizing of the current website
4. Financial aspects: report of the Treasurer and Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Ragweed Conference held in Rho (Milan, Italy)
5. Situation of the Society: report of the Secretary
6. Planning of the next IRS scientific events and of the next General Assembly: Lyon 2016 (EAS congress), Parma 2018 (IAA congress), other proposals
7. Initiatives for the next IR day 2015 and set date
8. Miscellaneous (COST SMARTER etc.)

**Participants:** Maira BONINI, Roberto ALBERTINI, Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER, Uwe STARFINGER, Michel THIBAUDON, Tamas KOMIVES

**Meeting:** Chairperson: Maira BONINI  
Secretary: Michel THIBAUDON

1. The President Maira BONINI thanks Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER for the possibility to organize this committee meeting in this nice place in Bern. She thanks also the members who came from their home place on a Saturday. She presents the excuses of Marie-Agnes CHAPGIER who cannot come at the last moment for personal reasons.
2. Approbation of the minutes of the last committee minutes of April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Rho.
3. Modification of the Statutes: on the § 12, the text which is proposed is:  
The committee consists of at least three *and* at most nine members. They are appointed for a period of four years and may be reappointed, except the President. At the end of the four year mandate, the President becomes Past President. *The Past President will automatically remain a member of the committee for the subsequent four-year period.*  
The rest of the § stays as in the previous version.

At § 19: The statutes have been adopted by the constituting Assembly on 02.10.2009, modified by the General Assembly on 06.10.2011, *and by the General Assembly on XX.XX.XXXX*, and came into force on the same date.

This proposal has been agreed upon by the Committee Members. It must be approved by the next General Assembly.

4. IRS website-reorganizing of the current website: Gilles OLIVER, technician in aerobiology in RNSA (France), will do the maintenance of the IRS website in place of Tamas KOMIVES. He will be in charge of the update of the website and for the proposal of restyling and modifications. As Gilles is not elected, he presently cannot be the Webmaster, but for the next general Assembly in 2016, a webmaster must be elected and Gilles OLIVER may be a candidate. We have to discuss about the transfer of the location of the website, which is still in the University of Budapest. Michel THIBAUDON and Gilles OLIVER will ask Tamas KOMIVES to see how to transfer it, and where? On the “Contact link”, the two addresses of Gilles and Maira will be added. It will be useful to create a list of links to the “reference person” for each Country.
5. Financial aspects-report of the Treasurer and Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Ragweed Conference held in Rho (Milan, Italy): As Marie-Agnes CHAPGIER cannot participate to the committee meeting, Michel THIBAUDON presents the actual Bank account: +4502.24 €. During this period we collected member fees and the positive results of 2<sup>nd</sup> IRC in Lyon (2000 €). She was in touch with Christian BOEHREN, the Past Treasurer, and the Post Finance to obtain the transfer of the authorization of signature for her, Maira BONINI and Michel THIBAUDON and the code for website consultation and bank transfer. Maira BONINI presents the financial statement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IRC in Rho. The total income is € 12596.59 and the total costs are € 16485.24. The negative difference of - € 3888.65 is sustained by LHA Mi1. The whole Committee Members thank the LHA Mi1 to have organized and sustained financially the 3<sup>rd</sup> – IRC. As Maira BONINI had some problems of payment from some abstract-presenting authors, it is recommended to receive the payment from the authors before the congress or at the latest during the congress. We must increase the number of IRS members, perhaps with the promotion of COST SMARTER Group. Now we have 60 members but we need to have more and more. To simplify the payment of the fees, Marie-Agnes CHAPGIER will see how to organize the payment by Credit Card and/or Paypal.
6. Situation of the Society: The main tasks of the Society are the participation at the organization of the International Ragweed Congress and at the International Ragweed Day (IRD). It is necessary to promote the IRD in each Country of Europe but also in other Countries such as China, Australia, US, Iran, India etc. Maira BONINI and Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER will send some information at the representative bodies of these Countries. The IRD is normally the first Saturday of Summer. For 2015, it will be Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> with some national adaptation. An update of the IRS website must be done in March/April, to promote the IRD. Uwe STARFINGER will make a proposal of a flyer (leaflet) in English, which can be translated in each language and edited for dissemination. IRS must also, at the end of COST SMARTER action, continue the information about the topic of this action and represent a framework as it is the COST SMARTER. Logo: Michel THIBAUDON thinks that we must correct the logo to have a higher quality for the website and for the different leaflet, posters etc. Michel THIBAUDON will send the present logo as available to Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER, who will then work on it to increase the quality.

7. Planning of the next IRS scientific events and of the next Committee: Lyon 2016 (EAS Congress), Parma 2018 (IAA congress), and other proposals. Michel THIBAUDON presents the summary of the next ESA (European Symposium on Aerobiology), which will be organized by EAS and RNSA in Lyon from 18 to 22 July 2016. We decided to organize one Ragweed session in partnership with IRS. During this session, we will organize a joint session with COST SMARTER. COST SMARTER cannot sponsor this meeting, but they might pay for some members who will present some works and will be involved in the organization of this joint session (5-7 people are expected to participate from COST-SMARTER). A Committee meeting will be organized during this period in Lyon. The important point is that we make a promotion of this event in Lyon to increase the number of participants. Roberto ALBERTINI presents the main program of the next IAA Congress (International Aerobiology Association), which will be organized in Parma (Italy) from 3 to 7 September 2018. There will be a joint session IAA/IRS, IRS committee meeting and IRS General Assembly. For these two congresses, we must remember the Laszlo MAKRA proposal to award the 3 best oral presentations and the 3 best posters. These awards may consist of partial payment for their travel expenses or participation fees. The next General Assembly will be organized in Luxembourg in September 2016 to collect major participants.
8. Miscellaneous (COST SMARTER etc.): The final symposium of COST SMARTER will be organized in Luxembourg from 24 to 26 September 2016.

Maira BONINI proposes that for the committee members who attend this meeting in Bern a lump sum of 100 € euro to be reimbursed by the treasurer upon request. It is approved and the members thank Maira BONINI.

The President  
Maira BONINI

The Secretary  
Michel THIBAUDON  
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