

# International Ragweed Society (I.R.S.)

## Committee meeting- 2020 February 4<sup>th</sup> - MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday 2020 February 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00

**Location:** WEB CONFERENCE

**Chairperson:** Michel THIBAUDON

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of the minutes of the last committee meeting
2. Financial point
3. Action in WAC and during Ragweed round table in Lyon
4. ESA Cordoba with IRS committee meeting
5. Neobiota (Vodice) with IRS general Assembly and Symposium
6. International ragweed Day
7. Miscellaneous

**Participants:** Roberto ALBERTINI, Michel THIBAUDON, Gilles OLIVER, Olivier PECHAMAT, Sevcan CELENK, Uwe STARFINGER, László MAKRA

**Excused persons:** Maira BONINI, Heinz MUELLER-SCHAERER, Sandra CITTERIO,

**Meeting:** Chairperson: Michel THIBAUDON (President)  
Secretary: Michel THIBAUDON

1. Approval of the minutes of the last committee meeting:  
Discussion about the different points which will be described below.  
The minutes are adopted

A point updated by Gilles about the number of website accesses:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
January		720	1664	2723	2593
February	426	632	1200	2180	
March	526	869	2551		
April	437	814	1638		
May	555	961	1613		
June	1 152	995	2544	2754	
July	642	1 951	4561	2435	
August	1 124	3 786	4712	2476	
September	1 020	3 842	5129	2798	
October	698	1 548	4172	3249	
November	707	1 944	2904	1864	
December	681	1 935	3302	1642	

Gilles will update the table for our meeting

A point about the number of members: no more since last meeting.

Uwe Starfinger suggests adding link with Neobiota website on IRS website. Gilles will do it.

2. Financial point:

The two treasurers received the bank account sheets. The total income for 2019 is **4905€**, the total outcome for 2019 is **883, 73 €**. The total amount of the banks account for 2019 is **5852, 72 €**

Michel Thibaudon explained that the main outcomes are bank costs, the IRS poster and flyers, and the fees for the domain name of the website.

The main incomes are membership fees and a donation from the ALK laboratory. Sevcan Celenk and Laszlo Makra will try to find some sponsors for our association. Thanks to them.

3. Action in WAC and during Ragweed round table in Lyon

The World Allergy Congress (WAC) was organized in Lyon during 3 days in December. There were nearly 3000 persons. IRS had the opportunity to have a stand free of charge and one of the posters was displayed and about 200 flyers were distributed.

In January 27<sup>th</sup> was organized a Ragweed round table in the auditorium of catholic university of Lyon. IRS was the main co-organizer, the poster was displayed and 50 flyers were distributed. Around 100 persons assisted at this round table with 3 sessions of 4 to 6 experts. IRS was presented.

For the future we will present the poster normally at EAACI in London, ESA in Cordoba and during Neobiota congress in Vodice.

4. ESA Cordoba with IRS committee meeting:

During the European Symposium on aerobiology in Cordoba June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> we will organize on Monday morning our committee. We will present the IRS poster and will distribute IRS flyers. We hope 250 persons. There will be a ragweed session. We hope that we will be numerous on place.

5. Neobiota (Vodice) with IRS general Assembly and Symposium

The next big event for IRS will be in Vodice on September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will organize, just before Neobiota congress an IRS symposium with, we hope 4 to 6 original presentation on ragweed (during 2-3 hours) then we will organize the General Assembly of our association. We have to prepare shortly a sexy call for abstract to send to all members of IRS and to the smarter list. Uwe will ask this list to Heinz. With a link on IRS website and on Neobiota website (Uwe will see with the organizer for this link and for logistical aspect). With Sandra we will send to the committee members a proposal of call for abstract to try to obtain from you the best one. We will send the IRS abstract to Neobiota for the IRS poster. And each of us can send an abstract for a presentation or a poster, the abstract link will be open at the end of February and will close at the end of March.

6. International ragweed Day:

Normally IRS (the initiator of IRD) decided that the IRD will be the first Saturday of summer. This year summer will begin on a Sunday so we decide that 2020 IRD will be on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>. It is important that many countries organize events on ragweed recognition with conferences and workshops in the field. The various events will be posted on the IRS website.

7. Miscellaneous: a lot of points were discussed during this committee meeting:

- 2020 was declared the “International Year of Plant Health” by the UN in order to raise global awareness about plant pests. Because ragweed is also a plant pest (in

addition to a health hazard), Uwe will see if it is possible to include Ragweed in public awareness campaigns of his institute.

- Scientific article on Ragweed must be included on the website. We have to see how to obtain this result. European Commission: Roberto would like to contact to ask an audition about Ragweed. The problem may be that EC is working on ragweed trifida on the list of "Health Plant. In the coming weeks we will see if and how to do it.
- Uwe presented the EPPO work on invasive alien plants which consists, inter alia, on assessing the phytosanitary risks of given species. Currently a standard on *Ambrosia confertiflora* is being prepared that explains methods for monitoring, control and eradication of the species. The standard mentions the health risk posed by the plant in Israel, where it is already widespread. The standard is expected to be ready for publication later this year and it may be a good idea for IRS symposium (spread of ragweed in Europe!)
- EPPO has also prepared a risk assessment on *Ambrosia trifida* which also mentions the health impact. Member states are advised to take action against this species, mainly because of its impact on agriculture and human health. The document can be found on the EPPO website:  
<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AMBTR/documents>.

Michel THIBAUDON  
President