



Committee Conference call - 2019 May 28th - MINUTES

Date: May 28th 2019 from 10 to 11.30.

Location: Skype call

Agenda:

1. Examination and discussion of the different points of the last call
 - Website
 - Membership fees
 - Committee tasks
 - Committee and general assembly (Parabiago, Cordoba, Vodice)
 - EMAPI 75, Prague
 - WAC Lyon
2. Approval of last call minutes
3. Treasurer committee meeting in Paris
4. ALK project
5. IRD 2019
6. Miscellaneous

Participants: Michel THIBAUDON, Sandra CITTERIO, Gilles OLIVER, Olivier PECHAMAT, Sevcan CELENK, Uwe STARFINGER, Marilou MOTTET (invited), Lisa LE LEVIER (invited)

Chairperson: Michel THIBAUDON

1. Examination and discussion of the different points of the last call

- Website

Thanks to Gilles OLIVER for his work on the website. He uploaded graphs about pollen concentrations received from IRS members and uploaded some presentations from ICA-Parma.

Gills will give the login to Marilou MOTTET (French ragweed Observatory), who will help Gilles to maintain and improve the website. Members can send any files/proposals to upload to the website to Gilles or Marilou. gilles.oliver@rnsa.fr; marilou.mottet@fredon-france.org

- Membership fees

Michel THIBAUDON reminded to pay the fee. Sandra CITTERIO already sent an email to all IRS members about this. If needed, she will send another notice.
The French ragweed observatory will add an invitation to join the IRS (and pay the membership fee) to the letter published in June.

- **Committee tasks**

In order to promote IRS Roberto ALBERTINI proposed to write a review about Ambrosia and Health effects to be published in the special issue “Outdoor and Indoor Biological Air Quality and Public Health” of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The cost would be 1800 CHS and Roberto and Michel are guest editors.

- **Committee and general assembly (Parabiago, Cordoba, Vodice)**

-Next Committee meeting will be held in Parabiago (Milano, Italy) Saturday September 7th from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Saturday evening Maira Bonini will organize a dinner.

-In 2020, the committee meeting will be held in Cordoba the June 19th in the afternoon, whereas the General Assembly will be held in Vodice, Croatia, the September 14th just before NEOBIOTA meeting. A scientific session before the administrative meeting will be organized. We hope 3 to 5 lectures on ragweed.

- **EMAPI 75, Prague (9th to 13th September 2019)**

To promote IRS, Michel submitted an abstract to EMAPI and it was accepted as poster. Michel will attend the Congress. Gilles and Michel will prepare the poster during summer.

People from the French Ragweed Observatory also proposed an abstract about *Ambrosia trifida* that was accepted, but they are not sure to attend the conference so eventually Michel will present their poster.

- **WAC Lyon**

The abstract submitted to EMAPI 75 will be proposed to WAC by Michel.

2. Approval of last call minutes

Approved

3. Treasurer committee meeting in Paris.

- The current IRS Bank account is at the “Banque postale” located in Switzerland. As there are many difficulties in contacting the Bank (none of the committee member is from Switzerland) and there are fees for operations, it would be advisable to change the bank.

Olivier and Roberto will contact separately some international banks such as the “Crédit Agricole”, the “BNP Paribas”, the HSBC in France and Italy to assess whether and how a bank account can be opened/transferred outside Switzerland (if it is necessary to change the statute or whatever)

- It is difficult to enroll new members in IRS. Some ideas:
 - prepare a booklet for the European parliament.
 - develop a short 3 minutes video (see if the tools used for SMARTER can be reused).
 - moreover Marilou/Olivier propose the use of LinkedIn by focusing on jobs (targeting allergologists). The French Ragweed Observatory could manage the page. However it is on charge.

4. ALK project

Michel is in touch with ALK Company. ALK is developing a new drug for ragweed allergy and Michel would like to ask ALK to sponsor IRS meetings: the first in Lyon next January (3000 Euro) and then in other European countries. All the committee members agree with Michel that it is a good opportunity and underline that it must be clear that ALK is a commercial company and that IRS does not support ALK drug.

Olivier will meet the French Director of ALK in June.

Another idea may be to develop a book for Lyon national meeting inserting advertising page(s) on charge. ALK or other companies may be interested.

5. IRD 2019

This year, the International Ragweed Day will be the June 22nd, although the week before and the week after are considered as IRD too.

In France, many events will be organized and a huge advertise will be undertaken. At the moment, 16 events are in program.

In Italy, the interest for ambrosia is declining because of the presence of *Ophraella communa* in Lombardia Region. Roberto tells on the possibility to publish an article about ragweed focusing on the health aspect.

In Germany, no event is scheduled at national level, only few local events. Uwe will send a list of these.

Michel THIBAUDON
IRS President

Sandra CITTERIO
IRS Secretary