

20th March 2007

To: All members of the Management Committee

Cc: The President

From: The Secretary

## **Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting** **Brussels - 14th March 2007.**

### 1 Apologies.

There were apologies received from Greg. Potterton (IRL), Hanspeter Daenzer (CH) and Johan Trygve Solheim (N). JF thanked PA for making all the arrangements at such short notice.

### Members Attending:

John Fletcher (JF) President...GB.  
Asger Andersen (AA) Hon. Treasurer...DK  
Tony Armitage (AGA) Hon Secretary...GB  
Peter Timmerman (PT)...NL  
Petr Janovsky (PJ)...CZ  
Radim Kotrba (RK)...CZ  
Franz Vogelmayr (FV)...A  
Dainis Paeglitis (DP)...LT  
Rolf Eriksson (RE)...S  
Andreas Svensson (AS)...S  
Paul Audenaerde (PA)...B  
Bartek Dmuchowski (BD)...PL

### 2. Matters Arising.

The BDFA Magazine. This publication should carry more European news, if contributions could be made and sent to the BDFA Secretariat at:-

[nfo@bdfa.co.uk](mailto:nfo@bdfa.co.uk) These contributions could be made in your own language, if that is how you would like the article published.

JF explained that after much hard work, it appears that a mechanism has been agreed, where by Single Farm Payment not currently being paid to Deer Farmers under the Historic payment system, will in future be paid. Scotland and Wales being effected, and he pointed out to others in FEDFA , if their countries were in this situation, they might now consider pressing for payment.

### 3. Discussion of Survey.

JF told the meeting it was very important for each country to fill in the forms that Ludek Bartos and Radim Kotoba (CZ Rep.) had worked hard to produce, because it was important that when meeting with representatives of the EU government, our comments were backed up with hard facts. Where members could not provide accurate answers then a sensible guess was better than nothing.

The new questionnaire was looked at in detail with comments and suggestions being made: -  
~Not all answers would be accurate, but best estimates should be made.  
~Not only deer numbers of the various association members to be noted, but also for each country any *deer behind fences / enclosures*, parks, tourist parks, etc.  
~Each country to explain the different regulations related to Deer Farming in their country.  
~A description of the type of farms in each country, and the major management aspects.  
~Under slaughter, each country must note the different slaughter and hygiene rules.  
~What facilities are there in each country to train hunters/marksmen? Not only in making a clean kill, but also recognising diseases, therefore being competent in carrying out anti- and post-mortem inspections if necessary on the farm.  
~Organic rules were also discussed. PT found it difficult to obtain official EU rules on organic venison production, JF to assist.  
~Conclusions. It was agreed that a larger section on subsidies be included, as in GB for example there were at least two different systems to receive subsidy.  
It was agreed that the answers to the survey, with comments, be received by RK no later than the end of May 07. RK to be responsible for this.  
Ludek Bartos to attempt to get a German input.  
PA and JF to organise an input from France.  
Trygve Solheim to produce an input from Norway, Greg Potterton from Ireland, and Janos from Hungary.  
The discussion on this projected survey was concluded with thanks being given by the President, JF, to the CZ Rep., and especially RK (Maugli) for all his hard work.

#### 4. SANCO Meeting.

JF explained the reasons for the meeting, and that among others they would be meeting Ron Dwinger at 2pm on 15<sup>th</sup> March at his office.

Meat Hygiene regulations were being changed in 2009, so before it was too late to get any input, it was imperative that FEDFA meet this committee and express the thoughts and wishes of the membership. If this was not achieved a disproportionate amount of costs would be borne by deer farmers. What we are asking for is to retain the right to use a free bullet on the farm, for slaughter purposes, and for the farmer to be able to choose whether he has a vet. present for an ante-mortem inspection and most especially at the time of bleeding. Post-mortem inspection should also be able to be carried out on the farm, especially where the venison would be sold to the end consumer. It should be possible for all hunters/marksmen to be trained in these skills.

Several problems may have to be addressed as a result of the meeting:-

- ~Could be constrained by the hunting season.
- ~May not be able to sell to supermarkets and restaurants.
- ~Veterinary medicines, may cause a problem.
- ~Farmers using a free bullet should be able to choose once per annum, for example, whether they wish to have their venison inspected as red meat or as wild game. Those using abattoirs would be unaffected..
- ~Different countries currently have different rules, some of these were discussed, but it may become increasingly necessary under the revised hygiene regulations for all countries to adopt similar rules. JF to draft a set of notes and requests over night, to be discussed and approved before the meeting with SANCO. These notes to act as the basis for the negotiations.

~PA raised the question of valuation of deer stock taken for compulsory slaughter. It was concluded after discussion that this was a national problem, and should not be mentioned at the SANCO meeting.

~Tuberculosis Control Measures. EFSA (the European Food Standards Authority) has been asked by EU authorities to consult on TB control measures. FEDFA will ask SANCO why it was not consulted as a stakeholder. It was agreed that it will be suggested to SANCO at the meeting, that all countries should use the "comparative method" of TB testing (that is both bovine and avian tuberculin).

~CWD surveillance in each country seemed to be going ahead as planned. However, it was pointed out that we are being requested to test a lot fewer numbers than had originally been required.

#### 5. Investigations into the possibility of Grants for FEDFA.

JF agreed to discuss this with his M.E.P, and to ask which route should be taken. We are seeking possible payments by the EU to defer meeting costs. It was noted that we should come under grants promoting deer farming or small businesses.

6. Other requests.

PT asked what work had been done on “N” output due to stocking density of deer, and how they compared with beef and sheep. AGA will undertake to try and find out the figures from Rosemaund produced by Mervyn Davies.

7. A.O.B.

8. Date and venue of Autumn meeting.

Thanks to the kind invitation of Denmark through AA, this will be held in Denmark, possibly near Arhus. Date to be notified within a fortnight. AA will make arrangements for the open Autumn meeting.