

20th September 2007

To: All members of the Management Committee

From: The President

Minutes of the FEDFA Management Committee Meeting held in Kolding Denmark - 7th September 2007.

1. Attending: John Fletcher (UK) President, Rolf Eriksson (Sweden) Vice President; Andreas Svensson (Sweden); Radim Kortrba (Maugli!) (Czech Rep.); Petr Janovsky (Czech Rep.); Piotr Karwala (Poland); Andrzej Karwala (Poland); Nenrec Stelmam (Poland); Ray Gower (UK); Franz Vogelmayr (Austria); Engelbert Erhart (Austria); HansPeter Danzer (Switzerland); Andrej Tolstoy (Sweden); Asger Wiuff Andersen (Denmark); Greg Potterton (Ireland) Vice President.

2. Apologies: Tony Armitage (UK) Secretary; Paul Audenaerde (Belgium); John Trygve Solheim (Norway)

3. Minutes of the last management meeting held in Brussels on March 14th were distributed and approved and the secretary thanked for his work.

4. Matters arising:

i) Progress by veterinary authorities in surveying European farmed deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was mentioned. HPD showed us a document on disease in Swiss farmed deer which dealt specifically with CWD. The document was too large to be distributed by e-mail but RE agreed to scan it and produce six CD's for distribution by post to anyone interested.

ii) Communications within FEDFA. JF repeated that BDFAs were still happy to provide within Deer Farming, a page for FEDFA to publicise their business. Perhaps this could be used to publish the results of the survey in due course. Apart from this the yahoo group remained a very effective means of communicating and JF asked whether all were receiving it satisfactorily. RK said that he was now connected. Thanks were expressed to Johan Trygve for his work in maintaining the website.

iii) JF reported on his meeting in Brussels with SANCO at their stakeholders meeting in the spring. They had rejected his proposal that the meat of all deer killed by free bullet could be treated as wild game but had promised in a letter that they would not require the presence of a vet at field slaughter of farmed deer in the new hygiene regulations to be introduced in 2009. It was agreed that JF would write a letter for signature by other

representatives to confirm that SANCO was seeking a way to ensure this was happening. RK also asked whether SANCO might be able to confirm that there was no regulation forbidding the use of a rifle to shoot farmed deer in the field. It was agreed this request should be included in the above letter. JF promised to send RK details of the UK report which their Farm Animal Welfare Council had prepared and which stated that field slaughter of farmed deer was considered extremely welfare friendly.

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5. Survey of European deer farming.

RK reported that he had received completed questionnaires from Austria, Czech Rep., Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. Of the remaining JF agreed to contact Paul Audenaerde regarding Belgium, and Peter Timmerman for the Netherlands, and also to ask Paul Audenaerde and Patrick van Aubel what was the best way to estimate the situation in France. JF also agreed to try to contact Dainis Paeglitis for Latvia and Lithuania and Johan Trygve Solheim for Norway. The Polish delegates promised to speak to Janos Nagy in Hungary and FV promised to ask Stefan Voll whether he might be able to complete a questionnaire for Germany. RK said that he had academic contacts in Spain and Italy and would approach those. RK admitted that he was worried about how to analyse the data but it was agreed that he should liaise by e-mail and that he must accept that much of the results would have to be in text rather than numerically since there were such pronounced regional differences. JF offered to try to assist with the text.

6. Possible German reinstatement.

EE and FV reported on their conversations with German deer farming representatives, Stefan Voll and Herr Funke over the possible reinstatement of a German delegation. They appeared keen to rejoin but wished FEDFA to emphasise that deer farming did not always require an 'intensive' approach with housing and actual 'domestication' of deer. They were also concerned that regulations should not extend to a requirement to ear tag all farmed deer but that the regulations should remain as they are now and that deer need only be tagged when they were transported. They also wished to ensure that the inspection of venison by trained hunters should be retained and if possible extended. It was agreed that the the variations in deer farming practice between and within member states and even within Germany, was already very great and that none of the points they had made were at variance with FEDFA policy and that is was also quite clear that we shared objectives with German deer farmers. It was also requested that EE and FV should point out that all FEDFA business had always been conducted in English and that it would continue to be and that if any of the German delegation were not able to understand proceedings they should supply their own interpreter. EE and FV agreed to try to arrange a meeting with German delegates

7. Ante mortem inspection of farmed deer.

There was discussion of the ante mortem controls of farmed and wild venison and the widespread differences between countries. Thus in Sweden all deer were considered wild so there was no requirement for an ante-mortem inspection. In other countries whilst the Hygiene Regulations were officially recognised they were not implemented. In some countries vets visited farms to carry out ante-mortem inspections monthly. It was agreed that FEDFA should approach SANCO with a view to investigating the possibility of ante-mortem inspection being conducted by trained persons. JF agreed to draft a letter as above also including this point.

There was also discussion on the variation between countries in the control of meat inspection and facilities, for example, buildings etc.

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It was agreed that the questionnaire should ask countries to provide short descriptions of the ways in which these issues were handled in each country including the fees that were charged and the ways in which ante-mortem inspection was carried out.

8. Next President.

The two Vice Presidents had discussed the issue of who should take over as President at the spring meeting in Brussels and had agreed that RE should become President.

9. Funding for FEDFA.

On the question of possible funding for FEDFA, JF mentioned the various possibilities which he had identified through his European Member of Parliament. He promised to put the web addresses of these various schemes on the FEDFA website so that delegates could consider them. However he emphasised that all funding would require substantial work in drafting the application and that at best funding would probably only represent 50% of the requirement. It would also probably require the funding application to come from one member country.

10. Any Other Business.

The subject of tuberculosis (TB) was raised and the meeting was asked whether anyone had heard what progress the EU veterinary committee charged with examining the subject of TB in farmed deer had made. RE stated that Sweden was now officially TB free but that if the EU was to require all deer farmers to adopt the same testing procedures then deer farming would be made very difficult. JF agreed to try to find out what was happening.

The transport regulations implemented in January were mentioned and RG asked whether they were causing any problems.

11. Date and venue of future meetings.

The venue for the autumn 2008 meeting was discussed with Ireland, Czech Republic and Switzerland proposed as possibilities. It was agreed that these three countries should discuss amongst themselves what they wanted so that by March at the very latest a firm decision could be taken. The spring meeting and AGM was confirmed as taking place in

Brussels on 26th/27th March 2008 and it was requested that Paul Audenaerde be asked to make arrangements, please.