

MINUTES OF FEDFA MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD IN SLOVAKIA 11TH NOVEMBER 2009.

Apologies for absence: Asger Anderson (treasurer), Paul Audenaerde, Marie Kelly, Peter Timmerman.

Those present were: Kaspars Vasilonok (Latvia); Englebert Erhart (Austria); Gediminas Vaitiekunas (Lithuania); Bartek Dmuchowski (Poland); Dainis Paeglitis (Latvia); Patrick van Aubel (France); Jaroslav Pokoradi (Slovakia); Franz Vogelmayr (Austria); Janos Nagy (Hungary); Andreas Svensson (Sweden); Silvo Novak (Slovenia); Radovan Kasardi (Slovakia); Pavel Vokal (Czech Rep.); Carolynne Ellis-Jones (UK); Radim Kotrda (Czech Rep.); Stefan Voll (Germany); Rolf Erikson (President, Sweden); Hanspeter Danzer (Switzerland); Tony Armitage (UK), John Fletcher (secretary, UK).

3 and 4. The President went through the Minutes of the last meeting held in Brussels on 24th March 2009. Matters arising were dealt with as agenda items below.

5 and 6. There was no treasurer's report but the President passed a list of outstanding subscriptions. It was pointed out that those member countries who had not paid subscriptions had never received invoices. It was agreed that member countries in arrears (i.e Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, UK, France, Hungary and Ireland) should pass their contact addresses to the President so that invoices could be raised.

8. Radim Kortrda reported that he was on the point of completing the European deer farming general survey – only Norway, Slovakia, Germany and Lithuania remained to provide information and he would pursue these countries and would have the report finished by the time of the spring meeting in Brussels at the latest.

9. The President updated delegates on progress in negotiations with SANCO (the EU body dealing with food hygiene) relating to the forthcoming hygiene regulations. It had been a long struggle with attempts from FEDFA to liaise with SANCO dating back to 2002. However SANCO had proved extremely unhelpful and actually hostile. Now however Tom Golden had retired and relations with the new director, Van Dijk, seemed more promising. The proposal from the UK Food Standards Agency that the requirement for vets to witness bleeding of farmed deer killed on the farm should be set aside had been carried. Only 2 of the 27 members in committee had voted against the measure and it was now up to DGVI SANCO to draft appropriate clauses in the regulation.

10. The President outlined the developments over the previous week involving FEDFA and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE). Paul Audenaerde had been invited by Yves LeCocq, also a Belgian vet and Sec-General of FACE, to attend an informal meeting of FACE and SANCO at which there was discussion of the future requirements for attendance at deer

farms. Paul Audenaerde had drafted a letter which the President had amended and sent to Van Dijk. In this letter it had been proposed that the deer farmer or the person who killed deer on a farm might be permitted to sign that the deer had been bled correctly if they had attended a course and become qualified to 'trained hunter' status. This situation is already that which prevails in Austria. In addition it was suggested that it might become possible to relax the requirement for veterinary attendance at the time of ante-mortem inspection on the basis that, 1. The deer farmer had an established veterinary contract and that, 2. The deer farmer or his slaughterman had achieved trained hunter status by attending an approved training course.

It was agreed that Van Dijk should be invited to attend the FEDFA meeting in Brussels in March. It was pointed out that this was also important in connection with the future status of deer farming after 2013. The President agreed to write to Van Dijk to invite him.

13. Dates of spring meeting in Brussels. These were confirmed as March 23/24 2010. It was hoped that Paul Audenaerde could be persuaded to arrange a hotel. Stefan Voll together with Franz Vogelmayr agreed to discuss with the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA) whether they would provide facilities including an interpreter for the March FEDFA meeting and also assistance in one or two meetings per annum for the next few years. These would be, as now, a spring meeting in Brussels and another which would rotate within Europe. Stefan Voll was thanked for this initiative although the President recommended that we should also keep our connections with FACE open since they too might offer facilities.

It was suggested that FEDFA members might write to their own COPA member organisation to encourage COPA's support. Addresses of each countries' member organisations are on the www.copa-cogeca.be website.

14. Hans Peter Danzer generously invited FEDFA to Switzerland for the autumn 2010 meeting and this was unanimously accepted. Hans Peter agreed that this should be in September and delegates were advised to expect that the meeting would be on a 'different scale' to the present Slovakian one! It was also agreed that more time should be made available for FEDFA business.

Due to shortage of time and facilities other agenda items were omitted and the President closed the meeting.