

Spring Meeting Brussels: March 20th.-21st 2010.

Management Committee Meeting:

Present:- President: Franz Vogelmayr.

In Attendance:-

Belgium: Paul Auudenaerde.

Czech Rep: Radim Kotrba (Maugli)

Denmark: Asger Andersen

France: Patrick Van Aubel.

Germany: Stefan Voll

Netherlands: Peter Timmerman.

Latvia: Dainis Paeglitis.

Lithuania: Gediminas Vaitekunas.

Slovakia: Radoslav Kasarda.

Sweden: Andreas Svensson.

Switzerland: Hanspeter Daenzer.

Apologies:- President Rolf Eriksson (Sweden) John Fletcher & Tony Armitage(UK)
Tomas Landete-Castillejos (Spain) Bartlomiej Dmuchowski (Poland)

Management Committee Meeting

Chairman's Opening Comments:

As Rolf Eriksson (incumbent President) was unable to be present, due to illness, Franz Vogelmayr (Vice President) took the Chair and chaired this meeting. His first duty was to inform the meeting about the planned visit of the Senior Policy Advisor for Livestock, Breeding Cattle and Honey from COPA-COGECA, Mr. Stanislav Jas. He would be present during the meeting on 23rd. March in the late afternoon.

The membership then discussed their expectations and demands that they would put to COPA-CCOGECA. All of the membership agreed that FEDFA needed information about relevant issues related to the industry that were being discussed in Brussels. COPA is able to find and recommend the best contacts and representatives within the EU commission.

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the last meeting in Slovakia.

Comments being noted.

2. Deer Farming Survey progress.

It was agreed by the membership, that there should be a fixed deadline for returning questionnaires, the agreed date being end April 2010. Germany promised to send its questionnaire before that date deadline.

3. SANCO Hygiene regulation activities.

Paul A. informed the meeting in detail about the efforts that the UK and Sweden had made in order to bring about a change to regulation no. 853/2004 which dealt with ante- mortem inspection which included the presence of a vet during the shooting and bleeding of deer on a deer farm. The SANCO commission will be holding a meeting on 19th. April 2010. FEDFA National Representatives are asked to lobby for support of the UK proposal, by their Country delegates at this SANCO meeting.

4. Paul A. informed the meeting that Yves Lecocq (FACE) had offered FEDFA their office in Brussels for meeting purposes. As there had been some misunderstandings concerning this offer at the last MGM, Paul A. was asked once more to approach Yves Lecocq in order to ascertain whether the offer still stood.

5. Web-site update needed.

Rolf E. has agreed to be the new 'web master' once having recovered from his illness. Trygve S. was thanked for all his previous work connected with the FEDFA web-site, and was asked if he would kindly continue until Rolf E. is able to take over.

6. International Deer Biology Congress.

This will be held in Chile during August 2010.

The 5th World Deer Congress will be held in Changchun, Jilin Province, China on July 27-28 2010. FEDFA members agreed to sponsor travel expenses for a delegate to this Congress. Due to his extensive international contacts and knowledge, John F. would be asked to represent FEDFA. Maugli would provide the results (data/figures etc.) of the FEDFA survey which John F. would present there.

7. Meeting with COPA-COGECA representative.

Mr. Stanislav Jas, Senior Policy Advisor for Livestock, Breeding Cattle and Honey at COPA-COGECA, visited the FEDFA meeting, and was welcomed and introduced by Franz V.

Franz V. described FEDFA's history and its mission; he also highlighted its expectations from being in close contact with COPA-COGECA. Mr. Jas then gave an overview of the structure of COPA-COGECA and explained the function of the associated working parties within the organisation. COPA does not have a working party for game and game products.

Therefore FEDFA has two possibilities, firstly to be an 'external partner' with limited access to information and no influence. Secondly, actively participating

and thus 'internal membership' with full access to information with the possibility to establish a working party or delegate experts through member country organisations, governed by COPA.

Paul A. explained the importance of 'deer experts', giving the example of specialised veterinary work for example in the case of Blue Tongue.

Mr. Jas recommended to FEDFA that CAP was compared with deer farming, and that we should prepare topics we would like to see discussed. He kindly offered the facilities of COPA-COGECA in Brussels for the next FEDFA Spring meeting, and promised that he would participate in the next meeting.

Franz V. then opened a discussion about FEDFA's possibility to co-operate with COPA.

Stefan V. spoke of his experiences of representing small ruminants within COPA, and agreed that the best way forward would be to hold the next Brussels meeting at COPA's office and invite national farm organisations associated in COPA.

MR. Jas promised to co-operate with FEDFA and to be the contact person for FEDFA's future requests.

8. Peter T. raised questions about Q. fever. Paul A. explained the signs and pathogenesis of this bacterial zoonosis influencing mainly sheep and goats. It is air and wind spread and the source of pollution is blood and placenta.
9. Hanspeter D. kindly invited FEDFA to hold its Autumn meeting in Switzerland on 24th.-26th. September 2010. Hanspeter D. also reminded the meeting that it was the 20th. Anniversary, and said that he would be delighted to organise a celebration during this meeting. Due to hotel arrangements, pre-registration would be necessary by the end of this April 2010. He also suggested that FEDFA should cordially invite any founder members and notable persons who had helped FEDFA in the past, as a way of expressing gratitude.

Annual General Meeting:

1. The AGM was opened by Franz V.
2. The minutes of the last AGM were discussed. At that AGM, Tomas L-C had offered to create a newsletter, which could then be translated by the member organisations. Possibly due to pressure of work, there had been no progress in this matter.
3. Election of National representatives, there were no changes notified.
4. Election of Office holders.
Franz V. was elected as President of FEDFA for the next two years.
All expressed thanks for all the hard work that Rolf Ericsson had done during his successful Presidency, and hoped that he would be able to come to the MGM in Switzerland in September.
Radim K. became the first Vice President, with Peter T. as the second Vice President.

Tony A. will become Secretary.

Asger A. will continue as Treasurer, who is doing a difficult but good job of getting the subscriptions from every country.

5. Financial report:

Asger informed the meeting that there was a good positive balance, but he did complain about the non payment of some countries annual subscriptions. During last years' AGM, every one had agreed to make June the deadline for payment, but nothing had happened. Stefan V. made the suggestion that defaulting countries' subscriptions should be collected at the AGM from the country representatives. After further discussion, it was decided that all countries should have a last opportunity to pay by end of April 2010. If subscriptions were not paid by then, FEDFA would expel these members, because it was agreed that it was unfair for others to carry those that did not pay their subscriptions by the agreed due dates.

It was also agreed to support the FEDFA's Autumn meeting by 2000 euros. from the FEDFA a/c, and one person's reasonable travel expenses to 5th World Deer Congress in China.

The Annual Subscription (Fee) for next year will remain at 165 euros.

4. National Reports:

Netherlands. There had been a decline in deer farmers, research within the universities. Some new legislation, veterinary and animal. Rules for organic farming being prepared. Max. deer density is 8 red or 11-12 fallow/ ha. Nutrients production by live animals is being monitored.

Latvia. 60 herd deer farm is the increasing trend, many new farms are based on European monies. Research on manure and venison quality is being investigated, also there is a breeding programme for red and fallow deer being established.

France. Currently 50 deer farms and 200-300 deer parks. Currently legislation dealing with deer and llama farming etc. being introduced which includes:- ear tagging, movement and vet. control, and the presence of a vet at slaughter.

Switzerland. 200 members in the association, out of 600 deer parks and farms. New animal welfare issues arising. New entrants must sign up to 40 hours theoretical and 6 months particle course.

Sweden. 20,000 fallow deer and 6-7000 red deer are kept in fenced areas. No difference between farms and parks. No subsidies paid. No problem at slaughter, vet only comes for post mortem TB control. Average enclosure size is 15.5 ha, with the biggest being 1000ha. The minimum size for enclosures is 5ha and must have a minimum of 10% woodland. Education for vets. To inspect deer farms is being organised.

Czech Rep. 350 farms and 130 members. Effort being made to change legislation to allow slaughter for farmer's own consumption without veterinary control. There are currently national restrictions that don't allow slaughter for own consumption of farmed deer, cattle, horses and donkeys. Efforts are being made to include deer as a species for organic farming.

Slovakia. Numbers of deer enclosures difficult to estimate as no government census. Association membership is 59. Working groups to study nutrition, legislation, genetics and breeding have been established. The association provides a full service for members to include transport, information, guarantee of prices etc.

Lithuania. A fenced wild animal status exists for farmed deer, so very little legislation that deals with fenced deer. There has been a growth in deer enclosures from 43 in 2007 to 152 in 2009. Mainly small enclosures for a hobby or as mixed species on farms.

Denmark. Vet control has been increased. More effort being made to supply natural food and shelter. Enclosures with less than 5 animals have no vet. control. 80% of deer farms are members of the association.

Germany. 6000 farms, but small in size (1-5ha). Majority are located in Bavaria, 70% having fallow deer. The association issues a news letter 5x/yr. The 25th. anniversary of the German association took place in 2010.

Austria. 1600 deer farms applied for payments. 650 farms affiliated into the association, split into 6 regional committees. There is a certification programme on farms.

The next AGM will be 22-23 March 2011 in COPA offices. (Alternative date is 15-17 March 2011).