

Minutes of the ECOPA General Assembly on August 26th 2014 in Prague, Czech Republic – WC9

Record of attendance:

Head: Lisbeth E. Knudsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Vice-Head: Tuula Heinonen, FICAM, University of Tampere, Finland

Treasurer: Philippe Vanparys (PV), GENTOXICON BVBA, Belgium

NCP Delegates:

- Denmark: Lisbeth Knudsen (LK) and Erwin Roggen (ER)
- Finland: FINCOPA, Tuula Heinonen (TH) and Marianna Norring
- Norway: NORECOPA, Adrian Smith (AS)
- Italy: IPAM, (Isabella D'Angelis), represented by Francesca Caloni and Costanza Rovida (CR)
- Netherlands: Rob Diemel // Erica Van Oort
- Switzerland: Marianne Geiser

Secretary: Francois Busquet, CAAT Europe University of Konstanz, Germany

Board Members: Manfred Liebsch (ML) (rep Christiane Buta), Thomas Hartung

Excuses: Dagmar Jirova and Philippe Hubert

Philippe Hubert's comment to the GA sent per email:

"One suggestion: Would it be possible that GA would last longer? It is fine for me to travel for half-a-day or for one day but for a 2hours-meeting, it is almost impossible. One way to do this, would be by combining GA with a seminar."

1) WELCOME BY THE HEAD

- LK welcomed and asked all in the room to present themselves
- LK presented the agenda of the general assembly (GA) and informed the GA that DACOPA is replaced by the Danish center for 3Rs that has no animal welfare representative. Lisbeth, Erwin and the 3R centre can thus be considered only as associate members.
- LK announced that AS will present the revision statutes and that new election will take place next year if the statutes are approved
- The board PV, TH, LK, AS, ML, ER, Thomas Hartung, Marianna Norring and Philippe Hubert is in.
- Secretary Mardas Daneshian was replaced by Francois Busquet as kindly offered by CAAT Europe
- LK underlined that CAAT support is appreciated for most of the administrative issues.

2) ECOPA'S REVISION STATUTES

- AS reminded ecopa's uniqueness as having 4 stakeholders (i.e. academia, animal welfare, industry, regulators/government) by national consensus platforms. All decisions are made by consensus among the board and representatives of national platforms during the GA
- AS suggested that the final revision of the statutes could be checked by a legal expert
- AS went through the revision statutes and explained the modifications from the previous version:
 - 3Rs definition has been shortened
 - Article 7: no need of physical meeting; Teleconference calls can be sufficient
 - Article 8: intended "short" 1 year and long "3 years". To be added "no later than the day before the GA"
 - Article 10: "see article 14" to be deleted
 - Article 11: spelling mistake "consensus"
 - Article 14: time limit to pay the membership?
- Questions and Answers from the floor after AS' presentation:
 - Article 2: PV suggested to transfer the seat at his home address until he is treasurer
 - Article 6:
 - ML was not sure he could be allowed to be a representative since he is not employed. AS said his position fits for "appointed".
 - ER asked about resigning. AS: Deputies would fill the gap
 - Article 8: Action plan has to be approved by the GA (TH)
 - Article 10: item 7 split in 2 (CR)

- Article 12: item 6 to be moved to article 13
- Article 15:
 - Delete “changes of the statutes”
 - Discussion about dissolution reasons and conditions by CR. AS and ML wants to keep it as open as possible and maintain that dissolution reasons cannot be predicted
 - “in case of changes of statutes, the day it goes into force is decided by case by case in GA” (LK) and has to be published in the official journal (PV)
 - 75% instead of 2/3 to be consistent with article 10 or simply replaced by “according to article 10”

To add the date at the end of ecopa’s revision statutes.

7pm15 Thomas Hartung left for another meeting

APPROVAL FOR THIS YEAR

AS got a round of applause for his work

3) FINANCIAL SITUATION

- PV moved the original German bank to a Belgium bank. Accounts have not been audited yet.
- The 2013 financial report is circulated and signed by the members.
- Membership fees:
 - Invoices sent for year14
 - Hungary has not payed Y12, Y13 and Y14.
 - PV to contact hungaria
- TH asked for changing the statutes to allow fire of the NCP if membership fee has not paid. Not paying membership fee even if noted is sign of no interest and activities.
- PV suggests a section regarding NCP duties/legal obligation eg. Presence at GA and fee to be paid.
- AS will modify article 5 accordingly by adding “6 months after..”

4) ECOPA’S ACTIVITY PLAN

- LK announced participation in 3D workshop in Berlin next year with CAAT
- LK wants ECOPA to arrange young researcher travel grants seeking EPAA’s support
- ER suggested a common workshop between IVTIP+ ecopa + Danish 3R cente. He suggested that it should be applicable tools.
- FB will present to the Members of the European Parliament (MEP) the following: The objective is to pair MEP and scientists from the same nationality so that can they both enjoy bottom-up information (3Rs scientist providing 3Rs local information to the MEP) and top-down

information (MEP providing EU context to 3Rs scientist) to better understand and implement 3Rs on each side.

This MEP-scientists pairing is a CAAT initiative. CAAT will count on ecopa to provide names whenever relevant to MEPs for 3Rs advice

5) NCP round table

A text from each representative should be sent to the secretary and will feed ecopa's corner.

A text was received from

6) Closing of the meeting