

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly of *ecopa* on 22 May 2023

In the meeting, the participants discussed various topics such as recording the meeting, approving new statutes, giving proxy vote and power of attorney to the notary, changing the statutes, presenting the financial report and budget outlook, discussing expenses and reimbursements, budget forecast, membership and website, Fincopa anniversary event, workshop on quality adverse outcome pathways, statistical methods to refine and reduce, regulatory acceptance of testing strategies for chemicals, MPS workshop and finding sponsors for a meeting, development of brain organoids and the use of animals in research, use of organoids in medical sciences and regulatory assessment, finding sponsors for the project, and writing an annual report. The meeting ended with Costanza introducing an important topic about accountancy.

Agenda:

1. Recording the meeting
2. Approval of new statutes
3. Proxy votes and power of attorney to the Notary
4. Financial report and budget
5. Membership and the website
6. Fincopa anniversary event and *ecopa* workshop
7. Annual report
8. Accountancy.

Participants

The following representatives of National Consensus Platforms that are full members of *ecopa* were present:

- Costanza Rovida (President)
- Stefano Lorenzetti (Vice President)
- Tuula Heinonen (Fincopa)
- Philippe Hubert (Francopa)
- Kristina Wagner (SET Foundation & Deputy Secretary)
- Isabella D'Angelis (IPAM)
- Adrian Smith (Norecopa)
- Jenny Sandström (Swiss 3RCC)
- Philippe Vanparys (Treasurer)
- An Van Rompay (Deputy Treasurer)
- Bogdan Sevastre (ROCAM & Secretary)
- Raf Elsen, AcS Accounts

1. Recording the meeting

- *Ecopa's* Secretary asked if it was possible to record the meeting to ensure accuracy of the minutes. This was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of new statutes

- Were present of the National Consensus Platforms (Full members): Fincopa (Tuula Heinonen), Francopa (Philippe Hubert), SET Foundation (Kristina Wagner), IPAM (Isabella D'Angelis), Norecopa (Adrian Smith), 3RCC (Jenny Sandström). One Full Member i.e. REMA was absent without notice for absence. As 6 out of 7 Full Members were present, the General Assembly could debate on acceptance

of the new statutes. There was an unanimous agreement on acceptance of the new statutes. Raf took notes of it. Philippe V suggests informing the notary, who will then send a proxy vote to all members.

3. Proxy vote and power of attorney

- To set up or finish the deed, the power of attorney will be given either to the notary or to Philippe V, as mentioned by Raf Elsen from AcS Accountants in the meeting. This will allow them to act on behalf of the parties involved in the transaction.
- The notary will present the proxy to all of you, and you have to vote on it. The proxy can be sent back to Philippe V or directly to the notary, and it's suggested to send all the proxies to Philippe V to make it easier to work.
- Philippe V will send the information on e-mail addresses to the notary and they will send the proxy to all attendees by email. Attendees must vote on every point discussed, either for or against it. Once attendees send their proxy back to Philippe V, he and Raf will inform the notary.
- The meeting ends with Raf and Costanza saying goodbye, and Costanza introducing an important topic about accountancy which is then followed by a presentation from Philippe V.

4. Financial report and budget outlook

- Philippe V mentioned that the total expenses amounted to 5144 and highlighted that the biggest expense was the cocoa website done by Thomas Bakos which cost more 2700 euros.
- Philippe V will present the financial part of 2022, which he has shown last year and the year before, but he needs to repeat it because transactions done in December were not presented at the GA last year. Philippe V mentioned that the total expenses amounted to 5144 and highlighted that the biggest expense was the cocoa website done by Thomas Bakos which cost more 2700 euros.
- The presentation will be followed by a review of the financial part of this year on May 19th.

5. Financial Report

- Philippe V explained to Adrian the difference in membership fees. The membership fee for personal members was decreased to 50 euros while the fee for associate members remained at 100 euros and the fee for full members increased from 100 to 150 euros.
- Philippe transferred 2500 euros from the deposit account to the transaction account because it has more than 25000 euros and they when there is 25000 euros on a deposit account, a patrimony tax has to be paid.
- Philippe mentions that all the information on accountancy on the slides will go to taxation. On the slide on the deposit account, he will delete the arrow and the reason why 2500 euro were transferred to the transaction account. He then proceeds to show the final balance of last year on the next slide.

6. Expenses and Reimbursements

- Philippe V reports a decrease of 3,609.90 euros on the bank account compared to December 31 of the previous year. However, the *ecopa* bank account still has 27750 euros in money.
- The maintenance cost for 2023 is expected to be much higher than 5144 euros as noted in 2022.
- During the meeting, Philippe V mentioned that the renewal fee for the *ecopa* website was paid by Costanza for 9 years, and it had been paid back to Costanza. This was mentioned in the context of discussing reimbursements for travel expenses and memberships that had ended on May 19th.
- Update 22 May 2023, 5 memberships (REMA, RepRefRed Society, IPAM, Ph. Vanparys, An Van Rompay) paid yet their membership fee.

7. Budget Forecast 2023

- Philippe V mentions that *ecopa* has already lost nearly 2296 euros, but expects the amount to be much higher, and will be shown on the budget slide of 2023.

- Philippe V stated that the budget proposal for 2023 expenses would be around 9900 euros, which after extraction of the income would result in a loss of 7483 euros.
- The expectation is that all members will pay their fee, resulting in an income of 1450 euros. The goal is to raise more money through sponsorships. One grant of 500 euros is foreseen for Eurotox. The translation of the statutes and renewal of the *ecopa* domain have already been paid for, and it may cost up to 1500 euros to reimburse board members for the meeting in Helsinki. Philippe suggests to raise up the budget for travel to Helsinki to 3000 euros and Costanza agrees with the amount.
- Costanza suggests that it's time to start advertising the possibility to sponsor *ecopa*, after publishing the *ecopa* statutes. The *ecopa* Board needs to discuss it further. Meanwhile, Philippe V and An will prepare a prospectus for sponsorship.

8. Website

- Costanza Rovida emphasized the importance of time as everyone is busy, which is the most precious thing to have. This is relevant to the fact that the website has been done for nine years and renewal of the statutes for 20 or 30 years, as mentioned by Philippe V, and Isabella jokingly suggested going on holiday now that these are done. The meeting then moved on to the next topic.
- Costanza thanks Adrian for his contribution to the website, which was crucial for the outcome of the situation, as the main was in the name of a person.

9. Meeting in Helsinki

- Isabella acknowledged that she will try to mute the authorization, but Costanza mentioned that she needs to check if Isabella has the authorization to do so.

10. Fincopa anniversary event

- Tuula Heinonen mentions that the atomization will be in English and explains that her presentation will be about organ shift technology from a company university project she is working on.
- The speaker mentioned that they will seek money for unfinished business that is marked in red, which could be used to fund projects such as animal-free antibodies. This was mentioned before a coffee break and after a presentation about animal-free antibodies, and the speaker also mentioned a PhD student who will be graduating soon.
- The last talk of the meeting is planned to be related to quality adverse outcome pathways, as there is no one available to give a talk and the speaker mentions the importance of understanding how to make quantity in this context.
- The meeting will switch to English after lunch, as confirmed by Tuula Heinonen and Costanza Rovida, who also discussed raising the volume if needed.
- Tuula Heinonen states that she will give a presentation on organ shift technology from a company university project she is working on, during the meeting.
- Tuula Heinonen expressed her willingness to receive proposals and Kristina suggested contacting the International Council on Animal Welfare in OCD programs, which she can provide the website for.
- Tuula Heinonen confirms that she will attend the event where she will meet all the people and discuss it with Costanza Rovida who will also be there for the number workshop at HECA next week.

11. Workshop on quality adverse outcome pathways

- Tuula Heinonen asked if the speakers invited to the workshops would be paid, to which Costanza Rovida clarified that they would not be paid by the cost of *ecopa* team, and that she would try to get the emotion from the master or from someone else.
- Costanza suggests that there is an upcoming anniversary that deserves attention from international organizations, and it may be related to something from Moicity. Philippe asks if inviting speakers to workshops will be on the cost of *ecopa*.

12. Statistical Methods to Refine and Reduce

- Stefano mentioned that the first travel will be already covered by a car and he could call his travel back, which implies that he may not need to use other means of transportation for that particular trip.

13. Regulatory acceptance of testing strategies for chemicals

- An Van Rompay emphasizes the importance of having a regulatory expert in their testing strategy, as they already use a lot of Q sort and any other vision comes easily to the expert.
- During the meeting, An Van Rompay emphasized the importance of learning from each other's experiences to achieve good accepted results, both in terms of scientific output and regulatory acceptance.

14. MPS workshop and finding sponsors for a meeting

- Tuula Heinonen mentioned that there are not many people working on importing cell media and thermal, but those who are, like Fisher, should be considered for sponsorship. She also noted that this topic may be discussed in ministries.
- This week, they will have a meeting to finalize the thing of the past part. It is related to the British and they may also write something for a copout. The meeting will have speakers for these topics, but it would be good to have real context.

15. Brain organoids and animal testing

- Philippe H shares a paper on studying brain disease with both animal and organoids, where the material and methods describe the development of organoids and the use of animals, claiming that it will reduce the number of animals used. However, Philippe H is unsure of the paper's worth.

16. Use of organoids in medical sciences and regulatory assessment

- Although the efficiency of drugs for Crohn's disease has been demonstrated on organoids of intestine, they are not accepted in regulatory systems, and there is a need to modify the regulatory assessment framework to deal with this issue, as highlighted in a report published in the journal on non-animal methods and regulations by EFSA.

17. Sponsoring

Philippe V asked to all the ecopa members that, participating to congresses, they would note names of contact persons of companies to approach them for sponsoring to ecopa

18. Annual report

- Philippe V asked Costanza to write a short annual report for 2022 as detailed by the statutes. Costanza asks if a page is enough and Philippe confirms that it is sufficient.