



## **Report from the ETF Executive Committee – The General meeting, 29.04.10**

### **The situation.**

The ETF has grown and expanded in 2009 with Spain becoming a full member country with 51 members, we send a very warm welcome to our Spanish colleagues and look forward to welcoming them to the ETC.

We now have 9 country members with a number of individual members and we continue to try to attract other countries to join the European Taxidermy Federation.

The Treasurer will report that all member countries are fully paid up with their dues and subscriptions are being paid in for 2010 leaving the ETF economy in a healthy state.

In the past year we have been contacted by taxidermists from out with the ETF. It appears that there is a lot of interest in the ETF among taxidermists in Europe and we hope that this will lead to more countries applying for membership to the ETF. The association of taxidermists in New Zealand have been in touch with a request for information on taxidermy in Europe.

As stated, in the aims of the ETF committee for the past year, the new proposed statutes are ready to be put to the meeting and, hopefully, this will clarify and simplify the statute situation.

The Committee has been supportive of the Competition Group and Iginio Bressan's work in organising the ETC 2010 and we look forward to another excellent event in Vettorio Veneto.

This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> European Taxidermy Competition and once again will be host to excellent seminars from nine of the top taxidermists in Europe and a welcome return visit from Joe Meder, one of America's best game head taxidermists. We can look forward to viewing many first class specimens, attending these interesting seminars, and meeting and greeting friends old and new.

In Planning the ETC 2010 we have found that the roles between the ETF-Competition Group-and the host country were not well defined. This has created extra work and more discussion which we will try to avoid in the future. We will do this by making proposals for a kind of framework for the competitions.

The web site is our important contact page and is monitored and updated by the web master, Hagen Schulz Hagen who wishes to stand down which leaves us requiring a new web master.

As always the value of membership of the ETF should be spelled out. This is your federation! This federation is your mouth piece to talk on your behalf, and is also your window into what is going on with taxidermy within Europe and the rest of the world. Your committee is here to run the federation on your behalf but to do so we need the continued support from the membership in the form of membership fees as we are not a profit making organisation.

My period as president ends in 2011 and I intend to retire from this job. I will not turn my back on the ETF, and I am still ready to work for the federation, for example in a kind of law group if needed.

I think that the job of president is better defined now than when I started. In future the president will not have to take care of all the ETF tasks.

The incoming president will have an experienced staff of secretary, treasurer, web master, competition group, probably a statute/law group and a former president who will be supportive if needed. What is needed is a good organiser. There are such people among the members, find them and we will make one of them president.

And last, thanks to the other members of the Executive committee for excellent collaboration. There is a very positive atmosphere which makes the work worth doing. Also, thanks to the Competition group and Iginio Bressan who have worked so hard with organising the competition. I would like to apologise for the vague mandate for the task and hope that this can be improved in the future.

Thanks also to the webmaster and the statute group headed by Christoph Meier, and last, thanks to the members who are the foundation of the ETF.

On behalf of the EC. Vagn Reitz.