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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 07.02.09

1. Welcome – VR, on behalf of the ETF and VDP welcomed every one to this important meeting and noted that we had not put the minutes of the previous meeting on the agenda. DF had sent out these minutes to the delegates after the last meeting and had brought a copy with him but as there were no matters arising they were accepted.
VR asked to move point 14 to point 12, this was agreed. Voting slips were passed out.
2. Ascertaining the meeting - VR explained that the call for the meeting had first been sent out on 20/11/08 and then again on 9/1/09 therefore the meeting was in accordance with the Statutes.
3. Apologies - apologies were received from R. De Buysere, Belgium.

Present –

V. Reitz, (ETF President) – (VR)	Denmark, DZK
D. Ferguson, (ETF Secretary) – (DF)	Great Britain
L. Bouten, (ETF Treasurer) - (LB)	Netherlands. NVP
T. Larsen – (TL)	Norway
I. Bressan - (IB)	Italy, ATI
N. Rizzardini - (NR)	Italy
D. Schon - (DS)	Austria, ATA
F. Schwarz - (FS)	Austria, ATA
V. Tlapac - (VT)	Czech Republic, NVP
J van Hout - (JvH)	Netherlands, NVP
C. Meier - (CM)	Switzerland, VPNS
B. Henrich - (BH)	Germany, VDP
H. Schulz Hanke - (HSH)	Germany, VDP.

3. Proposal of minutes secretary and of vote counters - VR proposed DF to take the minutes and that BH and NR be the counters. This was agreed.
4. Report from the Board – President and Secretary – VR handed out copies of this report and read through it explaining it in detail. VR highlighted the fact that information was shared by the extensive use of e mails, and asked that delegates open these emails and respond to them. VR pointed out that the ETF send information to 2 delegates from each member country. At the suggestion from VT, it was agreed to include the position of the delegate with the e address in the contact list.
VR explained that the Executive Committee had held a telephone conference

to prepare for the coming meeting.

VR also explained that a Newsletter will be posted when required. VR then handed out ETF stickers that can be used with land mail correspondence when necessary.

JvH asked about why some countries had dropped out. VR explained that the fees caused Sweden to drop out and that Finland were not interested.

VR hopes that France, Sweden and Norway might re join and that GB will join soon.

VR suggested that the minutes from this meeting be sent to former members and potential new members countries with an invite to attend the next meeting as visitors, to see if we can get new members.

TL said that we have to try to make the ETF exciting. It was agreed that this will take time.

VR discussed in depth what had happened at the WTC 08. The ETF had offered to help but were told that this was unnecessary. Regardless of the very low profile of the ETF at this event it was a very successful event. VR again thanked our Austrian colleagues for their work in organising and running the event.

There followed a discussion on the ETF Trophy, on whether this should be cash and a diploma instead of a trophy. It was agreed that the ETF prize should be a cash prize and an exclusive plaque. It was acknowledged that judging this prize was difficult as no one on the committee is a judge but we do our best.

VR explained that the invite to attend the Stakeholders Group meeting arrived very late. The ETF were not invited but VR presented himself as the ETF President and now the ETF is on the mailing list.

Of the 25 people attending 6 were taxidermists and electronic tagging and other issues were discussed.

There followed a discussion on what do we get as an ETF member. VR explained that the ETF is a network for taxidermists over Europe with many contacts and access to information relating to many different issues which, if you were not an ETF member you might not have. The ETF brings us together and allows us to share information. As a large group of specialist crafts men/artists under the umbrella of the ETF we are able to take forward a powerful argument to the EU if necessary.

During a discussion on how we spread information it was explained that the ETF have a membership contact list with at least 2 members of the member country on it. The ETF send any relevant information to the 2 members who in turn make this information available to their members. It was agreed that this was the correct way to act.

VR suggested that 2 years was not a long enough term as President to do any meaningful work and caused problems with continuity. Also, as there were no candidates put forward as new President, he was prepared to carry on for a further 2 years. There followed a discussion on the danger of one person holding the position as President for a long time. Change should happen and be seen to happen.

DF reminded the meeting that previously we had agreed to rotate the Presidency through the member countries with the committees of which ever country had Presidency taking control. It was agreed that it is important that we show that the ETF has leadership to display success. It was also agreed that

2 years is too short a period and 4 years was suggested to allow development. This was agreed in principle as TL pointed out that 2 years of a good President is too short but 2 years of a bad President s too long. We need a President who knows how to delegate responsibility. It was agreed that we are on the correct path.

VR thanked DF and LB for their support and also thanked the Statutes group the Competition group and the Web Master for their hard work.

This report was accepted.

6. Treasurer's report – LB handed out copies of his report and explained that individual members who had not paid for last year would receive a bill for 2 years and if this bill was not paid in 2 months the individuals would be expelled from the ETF.

JvH suggested writing to the individuals asking why they had not paid and, after discussion it was agreed to try the personal approach.

TL suggested that individual members could pay for several years membership to offset bank charges. LB will send e mails to individuals suggesting this.

VR explained that in the past he had not claimed expenses from the ETF as his organisation, DZK, had covered most of his costs but proposed to now claim some expenses from the ETF. This was agreed.

LB proposed that the ETF help the ETC financially but we will have to wait to see what needs to be done and also to see how much we can afford.

There was a discussion on centralising transport costs, perhaps having a central travel agent to seek out cheap travel, but as the Executive Committee already try to travel as cheaply as possible it was agreed to carry on as we are.

It was clarified that the only income the ETF has comes from membership fees.

The Financial Control Committee letter accepting LB's report was read out and this report was accepted.

7. Proposal for fees – VR explained that the Secretary and Treasurer get 250eu Each to cover expenses and loss of earnings while on ETF business.

HSH expressed concern that the expenses appeared high compared to the amount that we have in the bank.

CM thought that it was important that the committee receive travel costs and he and TL thought that this was good as long as the expenses did not go to too many people. It was also thought that the Competition group might need some travel money, but this would become clear later. IB supported expenses for legitimate ETF business.

VR proposed that the Secretary and Treasurer continue to claim 250eu annually, this was agreed.

8. Proposal for subscription fee – JvH proposed 5eu for the first 100 members then 3eu for others over the 100 mark. This proposal was being put forward from his organisation, NVP, to help their financial situation. JvH explained that this would only affect the larger member countries.

There followed a discussion on fees where HSH reported that the German organisation had no problems with the fee as it is, and FS explained that in Austria he pays a minimum of 300eu annually to his country's tax and that there are only professional taxidermists in Austria.

There was concern that loyal member countries might not be taxed so much but after discussion and a vote it was decided to maintain the status quo: 5eu per member of a national association and 20eu for individual members.

9. Proposals and appointment of Committee members – VR is prepared to continue as reported earlier. This was agreed. CM is prepared to act as the 4th Committee member, this was agreed.
10. Proposal and appointment of Financial Committee – it was agreed to continue With R. du Buysere and L. Viniciguerra..
11. Proposal and appointment of Web Master – HSH agreed to continue and discussed the Home page. He explained that because of other duties not much has been done and that he would like some text from the member countries but needs this information in PDF and not word. HSH would like contact information about the first contact person from each country. DF to send this. HSH would like to include pictures of winning specimens but needs to know who mounted what, and which are Masters or Professional? HSH explained that the web site is the forum of the ETF and so needs these pictures and text. HSH will put his pictures onto the web and see if anyone can identify who did what. He can also translate text into Dutch and Italian. HSH then handed out a summary of hits on the site.
VR thanked HSH for all his hard work.
12. Report from the Statute Group – CM handed out copies of his proposals and explained where we are and his reasons for his proposals which are to make the statutes more transparent and useful. There was discussion on the different fields of taxidermy, ie, Medical, Geological, and it was noted that in Holland and in Germany taxidermists are known as Preparateurs.
CM then guided us through his document.
There was a discussion on Individual members in a Federation as in the case of DF who is an Individual member but is Secretary. HSH suggested that when we have an individual who is prepared to do the work we make use of that person.
JvH explained his concern about an individual holding an executive position in a federation. It was agreed that JvH and CM would look into this.
CM suggested removing par 11, this was agreed.
Article 5 par 4 – CM explained that if a country has real financial problems then the committee can change their payment agreement. This was agreed.
Article 6 – possibly add Financial Control Committee, CM to investigate.
It was agreed that that the Executive Committee shall be known as that and not the Board.
Article 7 par10 – after discussion on this it was decided that National associations must decide upon their delegates in advance and that an association can transfer it's vote.
Par 13 & 14 to be discussed
Article 8 par 3 agreed. Articles 9 & 10 agreed.
VR explained that the Statute Group will finish this and it will be sent out to the membership to allow us to accept them at the next AGM so the decisions under point 12 are intended as a guide for the further work in the Statutes

Group

13. Next ETC – IB explained that this is booked for 26 April- 2 May 2010. This will be the 8th ETC and already has 1 important sponsor, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. IB has organised a meeting to clear the Vet and Cites Laws for bringing in specimens from abroad. Documents coming from this meeting will be in 3 languages. IB proposes to cut the registration period by one day to Mon, Tue and Wed as this will free up a day for judging and that we need a minimum 2 judges per categorie. It was agreed that the details of registration and judging would be resolved by Competition Group and IB as there will have to be teams of registrars as well as officials to show how and where to position the specimens. Pictures and text relating to this event will be sent to HSH for inclusion in our web site. IB reminded us that it is very important to get the categories correct. TL will report on this. The problems within the Novice class were mentioned where non novices were entering that categorie. This will have to be policed. There was also discussion on the problems of master class and Professional class and it was suggested that we only have Professional and not Master, but nothing was decided on this issue. Cash prizes could be 1st 500eu, 2nd 300eu, 3rd 200eu. It was suggested that we have a “Master of Masters” judged by ballot of all competitors and VR suggested that we have a mammal equivalent of the “Avian challenge” working from a photograph. IB suggested that we make the competition the Open European Taxidermy Championships allowing non European country members to enter. This was not resolved. VR thanked IB for his work and proposals and promised what help IB needed.
14. Report from the Competition group – TL reported that many hundreds of hours has been spent on this report which has been sent to the members of the Group, J. Fishwick, P Sunesen, M. Fharini, and M. Gattabria. Score sheets were examined and discussed. “ in the group, JF and PS, want to simplify the score sheets buy using less text and more visual aids, but the rest of the team prefer the “written” score sheets. It is essential to have good score sheets to allow the taxidermist to learn from them. The Competition Group referred the score sheets to B. Koch for comment. Research suggest that score sheets should be completed at all times. TL proposed - 1. extending judging time, 2. the use of secretaries to assist Judges. 3. Judges to be only involved with judging, 4. Judges to be fit to do the job. Perhaps there could be a support committee to oversee judging, a coordinating team to help and to act as a go between that can also learn from supporting the Judges. This was accepted in principle by the meeting. DS suggested seminars for Judges with qualifications at the end of the seminars to become accredited Judges. TL and team will create a document about this idea. It was felt that the score sheets from 2004 looked very good as they explain where the taxidermist made mistakes. In Salzburg it was felt that mistakes were

made due to time pressure and possibly by external pressure from the TV groups, and because of this there is a need to re build trust and for the judging to be transparent. At the moment this committee is split 3/2 for change and because of communication problems it is felt that 2 members of the group are not contributing. Because of this it was decided to draft on D. Schon and B, Kock to help. This should be enough help to finish the project. It was put to the meeting do we want fuller score sheets or not and it was agreed that we want to see complete and full score sheets.

VR proposed that we keep JF and PS within the group incase they can add something to the project. This was agreed.

CM agrees with the report but expressed concern about the amount of resources required by the group and suggested that the group further prioritise what is important. It was agreed that the ETF need to provide rules, guide lines and protocol outlines for countries hosting competitions.

It was agreed to continue discussion on certificates, ETF logo and plaques to another meeting the following day as we were running out of time.

VR thanked TL for the huge amount of work that he had done.

FS suggested hosting the World Championships in Austria in 2112, after discussion this was agreed in principle.

15. None.

16. Longerone next year.

17. AOCB – LB asked for numbers of members to allow him to prepare invoices for membership fees.

VR thanked all for turning up, the meeting was very successful and the future looks good.