



*FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES
OF PLANT BIOLOGY*

Minutes of the FESPB Executive Committee held on Monday 18th June (15.00-17.00) in Room 17 (LOC room) of the Bella Conference Centre, Copenhagen.

Present: Members of the FESPB Executive Committee and Incoming President.

Giucia Daita (CCI Turin) joined the meeting to answer questions related to the Conference Secretariat for the 2020 meeting.

1. Introductions and approval of minutes of the 2016 FESPB Executive Committee Meeting (available on-line)

Minutes approved

2. Apologies for absence

There were no absences

3. Welcome to the Incoming President: Professor Andrea Schubert

Professor Andrea Schubert was welcomed as a member of the FESPB executive committee.

4. Update and presentation of plans for the forthcoming Congress in 2020 (Professor Andrea Schubert)

Professor Andrea Schubert gave a short presentation on the organisation of the 2020 meeting in Turin to date including the venue, accommodation available and budget. The need to agree a date in May/June 2019 for a meeting of the FESPB Executive Committee with the LOC to discuss progress with the organisation of the meeting was discussed.

5. Reports of Members of the Executive Committee
 - i. President (Stefan Jansson)

Professor Jansson gave a brief update on the organisation of the 2018 Congress and stated that the Congress budget would break even.

ii. Secretary General (Christine Foyer)

Professor Foyer described the activities of the year including the signing of the memorandum for understanding with EPSO with regard to the organisation of the 2020 Congress in Turin.

The webmaster Michael Wilson will move to take up a new post at the University of York on August 1st 2018. He will continue to fulfil his role in ensuring the maintenance and updating of the FESPB website. He will charge for his services directly to FESPB on a day rate basis.

iii. Treasurer (Heinz Renneberg)

Professor Heinz Renneberg gave a short presentation of FESPB budget including income and outgoings over the reporting period. He discussed the Societies that had not paid fees for several years and suggested that they should now lose FESPB membership. He recommended that a new paragraph is included in the FESPB Statutes stating that Societies that had not paid fees for 5 years should lose FESPB membership. He stated that two independent auditors were required to review the accounts before the end of 2018.

iv. Chair, Grants & Awards Committee (Laura De Gara)

Professor Laura De Gara gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the FESPB Grants & Awards over the reporting period. She outlined the selection procedures for the selection of recipients of the travel grants and two FESPB awards for the 2018 Congress. She reported that 20 travel grants had been awarded. She discussed the applicant for the FESPB awards and the ranking of applicants that led to the final selection.

v. Chair, Publications Committee (Maria Dolores Rodriguez)

Professor Dolores Rodriguez gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the Publications Committee, particularly the Newsletter and Facebook page. She reported that due to illness the Newsletters had not been prepared or circulated for 18 months. She had received no messages requesting the Newsletter or noting its absence. She discussed the possibility that the Newsletters should be terminated and that future contacts with the FESPB membership should be made through Facebook and other modern communication systems. It was suggested that the Chair set up a small Committee to discuss future possibilities for communication with the membership.

6. General Assembly (AGM)

It was agreed that it was not necessary to have a AGM at the 2018 Congress.

7. Elections for new Secretary General and Chair, Grants & Awards Committee to take effect from the 2020 Congress.

It was agreed that the call for nominations for the new Secretary General and Chair, Grants & Awards Committee to would continue until 30th of June 2018. An election would be held with on-line voting through the website until the 14th of July 2018.

8. Discussion of bids for the 2022 Congress and future Congresses

There has been a call for bids for the 2022 Congress but no formal bids have been received to date.

9. Future FESPB activities any other business

The possibility of new FESPB awards were discussed including the introduction of 5 to 10 travel awards (2,000 Euros each) for young scientists to travel to other labs in Europe. In addition, the introduction of a senior award was discussed with a value of 5,000 - 10,000 Euros.

Prof. C. Foyer, FESPB Secretary General,

19th of June 2018