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**REPORT OF THE 14th MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE EFPP
WITH DELEGATES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES**

Birmingham and online, Monday December 6th 2021, 17:30 h UTC, 18:30 h CET

Attending:

N. Spence (UK - President)
D. Fernandez (France – Vice-President)
M. Verbeek (The Netherlands – General-Secretary)
A. Hermansen (Norway – Treasurer)
M.J. Jeger (UK – EJPP Editor-in-Chief)
F. van den Bosch (Australia – EJPP future Editor-in-Chief)
D.B. Collinge (Denmark, UK)
G. Korthals (The Netherlands)
S. Sarrocco (Italy)
S. Burdman (Israel)
O. Frenkel (Israel)

1. Opening address by the President, prof. N. Spence

The meeting was opened by the EFPP-President, prof. N. Spence, who welcomed the Board members and the delegates from the Member Societies. The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the 13th Board Meeting in Dunkerque and matters arising

There were no remarks on the minutes of the 13th Board Meeting in Dunkerque, 2017, and they were approved.

3. Report of the General Secretary, dr. M. Verbeek

At this moment the EFPP harbours 20 National Societies, however some of them are quite dormant. Recently, Dr. Bragard informed us that the Belgian Society has stopped because of legal and financial reasons. Also the Lithuanian Society has encountered legal and financial problems since their President suddenly passed away in 2018. Since then activities have stopped, but we hope that the colleagues in Lithuania will be able to revive their Society again.

Good news from Sweden, where in 2019 a new society was founded: the Swedish Society for Plant Pathology (Svensk växtpatologisk förening). The Swedish society was welcomed to the EFPP.

In 2017 the British society BSPP asked for an update on the procedure for the application for subscription of the EJPP at reduced rates. After consulting Zuzana Bernhart at Springer the procedure was clarified. Members of National Societies applying for a reduced rate of EJPP subscriptions (electronic / in print / combination of both) should contact their own society. The National Society can then contact the General Secretary of the EFPP, who will provide a form and contact details for the application at Springer.

The EFPP web site is used for dissemination of information regarding the EFPP, and is updated by the General Secretary. Our EFPP web site has been of help to organisers of conferences and workshops, others than those of the EFPP, in order to attract EFPP members to those meetings. Also colleagues found the EFPP web site a useful tool to advert their job vacancies.

EFPP site changed to another hosting provider, but this is still facilitated financially by Wageningen University and Research.

A final request to all delegates of their National Societies: **please keep the General Secretary informed about changes in composition of their Board, Secretaries addresses and web site addresses in order to keep our contact information and the information on the EFPP web site up-to-date.**

4. Report of the Treasurer, dr. A. Hermansen

The treasurer dr. A. Hermansen presented a report on income and expenditure, for the years 2017 - 2021.

The annual subscription fees for National Societies is dependent on the number of their members, varying from 50 EURO to 300 EURO.

EFPP assets raised to € 14140,37 (per 6-12-2021) after making a contribution of € 7000 to the OPOF meeting. The incomes are generated by 12 associated societies, while 20 societies were asked by letter to pay their dues.

The auditors dr. M. Paulsen and dr. G. Skjeltorp have examined the financial statement of the treasurer and certified that it is correct on the 2nd of December 2021.

5. EJPP: Report of the Editor-in-Chief, prof. M. Jeger and dr. F. van den Bosch

European Journal of Plant Pathology accepts articles on diseases in agricultural and horticultural crops, forestry, and in natural plant populations. The scope and interests for EJPP are put in more detail on the EJPP web site. Accepted articles are from authors from all over the world.

The average speed for publication is 75 days from submission to first decision and 18 days from acceptance to online publication (in 2020). The usage of EJPP was represented by the number of downloads, which exceeded 350,000 in 2020.

The impact of the journal is expressed by different numbers of which the Impact Factor was 1.907 in 2020 (5-year IF 2.022).

6. Election and appointment of officers of the EFPP:

The current officers will stay in function until the next Board Meeting to be scheduled in the beginning of 2022. By that time, there will be more information on the bidding for the

next EFPP conference in 2024 and can be decided on the composition of the EFPP Board. The composition of the new Board will be announced by an addendum to these Minutes.

7. Report of the twelfth EFPP Conference 2017 in Dunkerque, France by dr. D. Fernandez.

The joint 12th EFPP and 10th SFP meeting had the title “Deepen knowledge in plant pathology for innovative agro-ecology”. The meeting in Dunkerque-Malo-les-bains was held from 29 May – 2 June 2017 and attended by 257 colleagues originating from 24 countries. The scientific program consisted of 68 oral presentations (of which ten keynotes) and 167 poster presentations, organised in six sessions and two round table discussions. The meeting resulted in 14 peer-reviewed papers in a special issue of EJPP. The board thanks dr. Fernandez and program secretary dr. P. Reignault for their efforts and organization of a very successful meeting.

8. Status Report of the thirteenth EFPP Conference 2021 in Birmingham, UK (written report by prof. N. Spence, dr. E. Boa and J. Brierly)

‘Our Plants, Our Future’ – 6-8th December 2021, Edgbaston Conference Centre, University of Birmingham - a joint conference from BSPP and EFPP

Uncertainties over travel restrictions and changing covid regulations were a persistent cloud over the planning of the meeting. However, mindful that some people might find travel to, and attendance of, an in-person event difficult, the meeting was held for the first time using a hybrid format. This involved securing a production company who could live broadcast the presentations with quality sound to participants attending via an on-line platform.

132 delegates registered to attend in person, and along with 26 invited speakers and a number of sponsors, we expected over 160 delegates at the venue, with an additional 30 attending virtually. However, 17 who had registered to attend in person, chose to use the virtual option, highlighting the flexibility offered by the hybrid model. Of the 26 invited speakers, 8 opted to give their presentations virtually. The blend of virtual and in-person participation enabled access and engagement with the meeting for plant pathologists from across the globe.

On Sunday 5th December, in-person delegates began arriving at the Edgbaston Conference Centre, University of Birmingham ahead of the first day of the meeting.

The meeting started on Monday morning, with an Introductory talk by Gideon Henderson, the Chief Scientific Advisor, DEFRA, followed by Nicola Spence’s BSPP Presidential Address “Plant health science and policy in the UK”.

In the programme that followed there were 9 themed sessions; Emerging Challenges, Pest Risks and International Trade, Combating Plant Health Problems, Framing Policies and Setting Strategies for Plant Health, Raising Wider Awareness of Plant Health, Plant Health Partnerships, Tree Health and Landscape Resilience, and a final general session.

Within the programme, there was also the PH Gregory Competition. This award from the BSPP is for the best presentation for first-time speakers at an International Conference. Five excellent presentations were given, but the judges were unanimous in awarding it to Tania Chancellor, a PhD student at Rothamsted Research for her presentation on “Exploiting the family feud: a fungal endophyte for the control of take-all disease in wheat”.

There were 50 posters on display – with pdfs made available to on-line participants. Nineteen of the posters were judged for the BSPP J Colhoun Award for best poster produced by a postgraduate student. Students gave a brief description of their poster to the judging panel. This years winner was Louise Johns, University of Bath, for her poster on “How does *Fusarium graminearum* acquire zinc during wheat infection?”.

The conference dinner was held on Tuesday evening at the meeting venue.

The last session of the meeting was a presentation by the RKS Wood Prize winner 2021, Sophien Kamoun “Reflections of a restless plant pathologist”.

The meeting ended at 4 pm on Wednesday 8th December 2021.

9. Scheduling of the 14th EFPP conference 2024, bidding of organizing teams

In the Board Meeting of 31 May 2017 in Dunkerque, it was decided that the fourteenth EFPP conference will be organized in 2024 (2023 is not an option as in this year the ICPP will be organized in France).

At that time, there were no bids from associated societies received, however some options came up during the board meeting:

- To ask colleagues from Norway and Sweden;
- To ask colleagues from Lithuania and Belarus;
- Spain (mentioned by prof. Escobar to be discussed within the SEF)
- Russia (mentioned after the Board Meeting by Russian delegates)

Representatives of abovementioned societies or groups were contacted by the General Secretary. Two options remain at this moment:

- Russia, with a proposal to organize the next meeting in Kazan
- Norway and Sweden, where a decision is awaited after the board meeting of the Swedish Society.

We will discuss this issue further during an extra Board Meeting to be organized online in the beginning of 2022, after we have heard the proposal of the Norwegian and Swedish colleagues.

10. Society bidding for the fourteenth EFPP conference (bid opportunity for Member Societies)

There are no societies bidding for the 15th EFPP conference. This point may be deleted from future agenda's because the time between EFPP conferences has been increased from two to three years.

11. Any other business

No other issues were brought forward.

12. Closing

All delegates were thanked for their active participation in this meeting and their effort in exchanging useful information. N. Spence closes the meeting.

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**ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE 14th MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE EFPP
WITH DELEGATES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES**

On-line, Monday February 14th 2022, 16:00 h UTC, 17:00 h CET

Attending:

N. Spence (UK - President)

D. Fernandez (France – Vice-President)

M. Verbeek (The Netherlands – General-Secretary)

A. Hermansen (Norway – Treasurer)

V. Gorshkov (Russia)

J. Yuen (Sweden)

Ad. 9. Scheduling of the 14th EFPP conference 2024, bidding of organizing teams

There are two bids for the organization of the 14th conference. Dr. Gorshkov presents the plan of Russia to organise the next meeting in the city of Kazan. Prof. Yuen presents the plan of the Swedish Phytopathological Society to organise the next meeting in Uppsala or Malmö. After their presentations dr. Gorshkov and prof. Yuen leave the meeting.

The board very much appreciated both presentations. The board decided to ask the Swedish Phytopathological Society to organize the 14th EFPP conference together with Norwegian colleagues and in joint organization of the National plant protection conference in 2024 or 2025.

The Russian colleagues will be asked to organise the 15th EFPP meeting three years after the meeting in Sweden, that will be 2027 or 2028.

After meeting the General Secretary contacted dr. Gorshkov and prof. Yuen with the request as described above. We got a positive answer from both, which means that the 14th EFPP conference will be organized by Sweden in 2024-2025 and that the 15th EFPP meeting was planned to be organized by Russia in 2027-2028.

Ad 6. Election and appointment of officers of the EFPP:

As it was decided that the Swedish Phytopathological Society will organize the next EFPP conference in 2024-2025, this society also appoints the EFPP President and the Meeting Secretary for the next period. In a Board Meeting of the Swedish Phytopathological Society organized on 24 March 2022, Prof. J. Yuen was appointed as EFPP President and Dr. A. Berlin as Meeting Secretary. From this date Prof. N. Spence will act as Vice President of the EFPP. The Board thanked the resigning officer Dr. D. Fernandez for her contribution to the EFPP in the past period as President and Vice President.

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**ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE 14th MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE EFPP
WITH DELEGATES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES**

On-line, Monday July 3rd 2023, 14:00 h UTC, 15:00 h CET

Attending:

J. Yuen (Sweden, President)

N. Spence (UK – Vice-President)

M. Verbeek (The Netherlands – General-Secretary)

A. Hermansen (Norway – Treasurer)

A. Berlin (Sweden, Meeting Secretary)

Ad. 9. Scheduling of the 14th EFPP conference 2024, bidding of organizing teams

Prof. Yuen and Dr. Berlin reported that the organization of the 14th EFPP meeting in Sweden 2025 is in progress and going well.

Dr. Hermansen raised the issue of financial support to the 14th EFPP congress. He proposes to support the organization with EUR 4000,- and sponsoring student registrations with EUR 4000,- as scholarships. All board members agree. Dr. Berlin asks whether this support can be transferred soon as this may be beneficial due to the currency rates.

Regarding the 15th EFPP conference:

We think that the current situation will e.g. complicate travelling of attendees or raise other complicating issues.

The board decided unanimously to postpone the organization of the EFPP meeting in Russia.

Dr. Verbeek will inform Dr. Gorshkov that the EFPP meeting in Russia, 2028, will be postponed. When the situation has changed, we will contact Dr. Gorshkov again to learn if the Russian colleagues are still willing to organize a EFPP meeting in future.

Prof. Yuen will contact Spanish colleagues who already indicated to be interested in organizing the 15th EFPP conference in Spain.