



REPORT OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE EFPP WITH DELEGATES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES

Dunkerque, Wednesday 31 May 2017, 19.30-21.00 hours

Attending:

D. Fernandez (France – President)
M. Verbeek (The Netherlands – General-Secretary)
A. Hermansen (Norway – Treasurer)
P. Reignault (France – Program Secretary)
M.J. Jeger (UK – EJPP Editor-in-Chief)
D.B. Collinge (Denmark, UK)
C. Bragard (Belgium)
J. Polák (Czech Republic)
C. Escobar (Spain)
A. Siah (France)
I. Sache (France)
R. Hückelhoven (Germany)
M. Jędryczka (Poland)
M. Belka (Poland)
A. Berlin (Sweden)

1. Opening address by the President, dr. D. Fernandez

The meeting was opened by the EFPP-President, dr. D. Fernandez, who welcomed the Board members and the delegates from the Member Societies. The participants of the meeting introduced themselves and prof. M. Jędryczka presented a letter of our vice-president prof. M. Mańska, who could not attend the meeting. The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the 12th Board Meeting in Cracow and matters arising

There were no remarks on the minutes of the 12th Board Meeting in Cracow, 2014, and they were approved.

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

As a reaction to the report of Dr. Deena Errampalli, Canada (who was a guest at the Board Meeting in Cracow, 2014), we were contacted by Prof. Short Heinrichs of the

International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS). The EFPP was invited to become an affiliate member of the IAPPS. There is no cost and it would be of mutual interest in the promotion of our two societies. On the 14th of October 2014, the executive board decided that the EFPP becomes an affiliate member of IAPPS. Both societies link to each other on their web sites.

In November 2015, we welcomed back as a member of the EFPP the Romanian Plant Protection Society (RPPS). The Executive Committee is grateful for the RPPS' decision to join again the EFPP, as the object of the foundation is to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of plant pathology in Europe.

At this moment the EFPP harbours twenty National Societies, however four of them are quite dormant. One of the dormant societies is the Swedish Society for Bio-Pathology, but there are plans to revive this society or to found a new Swedish association for plant pathology.

In 2015, the Spanish Society of Phytopathology (SEF) contacted the executive committee of the EFPP with a request regarding the reduced costs for a subscription to the European Journal of Plant Pathology, a benefit available to all EFPP members.

The SEF posed that a reduced fee for a subscription to the EJPP might not be attractive to individual researchers, as these subscriptions are often purchased by libraries. It might be more attractive for all EFPP members when a discount on Open Access publishing costs could be arranged. For this reason, the SEF asked the EFPP to inquire with the publisher (Springer) if such a discount could be agreed upon. With the help of the president of the Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology (KNPV), dr. P. Boonekamp, we started negotiations on reduced Open Access publishing costs with Springer.

The Springer office replied very swiftly. Unfortunately, it appeared that the EFPP is not eligible to start negotiations on a reduction on Open Access publication costs as it would only be applicable to one journal. A letter with this outcome was sent to the board of the SEF, and also to the secretaries of all EFPP associated societies.

Last year, the board of the EFPP was asked to nominate colleagues for the Cultura Prize, an award of the Alfred Töpfer Foundation. This Prize, founded in 2007, aims at recognizing and honouring innovative and exemplary scientific achievements in sustainable land use in Europe, particularly findings in agricultural sciences, forest sciences, nature conservation and related fields like hydrology.

The board of the EFPP is willing to nominate candidates for this prize, but not without consulting the associated societies. Unfortunately, we were contacted a short time before the deadline and time was not sufficient to consult the European Phytopathological societies, which we represent, and to come to a vote on behalf of these societies. We were contacted by Prof. Ammer of the board of the Cultura Prize and he fully agreed that the deadline for nominations was rather short last year and apologized for this inconvenience. The uncomfortable situation was caused by organizational constraints. However, in the up-coming years the invitation for nominations will be sent during summer which should leave enough time for careful considerations.

A final request to all delegates of their National Societies: please keep the General Secretary informed about changes in composition of the board, Secretaries addresses and internet 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 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The EFPP assets raised to over € 12000,- (per 31-12-2016). The incomes are generated by 12 associated societies, while 21 societies were asked by letter to pay their dues. In 2014 scholarships for attending the EFPP congress in Cracow (7 scholarships of € 300,-) were granted to young researchers. **The idea to make such scholarships available for every EFPP congress was adopted, where for each event the number of scholarships and the amount will be decided on by the board.**

The auditors dr. T. Munthe and mr. T. Wold have examined the financial statement of the treasurer and certified that it is correct.

5. EJPP: Report of the Editor-in-Chief, prof. M. Jeger, for the publishing year 2016

The Impact Factor (IF) for 2016 is not yet available. At the time of the previous EFPP Board Meeting in 2013 it was 1.7 for 2013, but remained constant in 2014 and 2015 at 1.5. The 5-year IF was 1.7 in 2015 which places the journal 9th in the category Horticulture (top ranking was Theoretical and Applied Genetics, 4.1), and 27th in Agronomy (top ranking was Advances in Agronomy, 7.2). By comparison the top 20 journals in Plant Sciences all had 5-year IFs > 4 in 2015, with only Annual Review of Phytopathology (3rd), Molecular Plant Pathology (16th) and Molecular Plant Microbe Interactions (18th) represented. The BSPP Journal Plant Pathology had a 5-year IF of 2.7. The plan is for the EJPP to remain a journal that covers all areas of plant pathology, all crops and other vegetation, and have global relevance.

In 2016 the number of submissions was 818, which represents a major increase over 2013 (682). Of these, 278 were accepted – an acceptance rate of 37%. The equivalent figure for 2013 was 35%. The time taken for a first decision was 61 days (57 days in 2013) and for acceptance 195 days (179 days in 2013). Accepted papers originated from 34 countries. 12 issues will be published in 2017 with on average 24 papers per issue (to be confirmed). Manuscript submissions are assigned to (at present) 50 Associate Editors; of these 36 have been appointed within the last five years.

Some 271883 full text article requests were made in 2016 (238501 in 2013). Of the top ten downloads from the journal since its inception, five have been made since 2013.

Special Issues have been published on ‘Wild Pathosystems’ (March 2014), Fungal Grapevine Diseases (April 2016) and Clubroot and Blackleg Diseases of Brassicas (July 2016). In each case, as in previous years, the Special Issues are based upon papers presented at International Conferences. It is planned to continue with one Special Issue per year and one planned for 2017 will be based on this EFPP Conference. Proposals are welcome for 2018/2019.

Author satisfaction with the Journal is high with 88% giving ratings in the top two categories on a scale (1 = very satisfied, 5 = not all satisfied). 94% of authors were certain or very likely to submit to the journal again. All but one aspects of the journal were rated in the range 1-2 on a scale (1 = excellent, 5 = poor); the exception was time from submission to acceptance which was rated as just over 2. Tighter deadlines are being imposed on authors for requested revisions.

Dr. P. Boonekamp (by e-mail to the General Secretary), president of the Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology (KNPV), has sent his complements to prof. Jeger and Springer for their efforts in publishing an attractive quality journal.

6. Election and appointment of officers of the EFPP:

The current officers will stay in function until the British Society for Plant Pathology (BSPP) will present the names for the new President and Program Secretary. The composition of the new Board will be announced by an addendum to these Minutes.

Addendum 19 October 2017

- *Appointment of the president: Prof. Nicola Spence*
- *Appointment of the vice-president: Dr. Diana Fernandez*
- *Appointment of the general secretary: Dr. M. Verbeek*
- *Appointment of the treasurer: Dr. A. Hermansen*
- *Appointment of the meeting secretary: Dr. Eric Boa*

All nominated officers were unanimously elected, and they will form the Executive Committee of EFPP for the next term.

7. Report of the eleventh EFPP Conference 2014 in Cracow, Poland (Prof. M. Jędryczka and prof M. Belka on behalf of prof. M. Mańska)

The eleventh EFPP conference, entitled ‘Healthy plants – healthy people’ was held from 8 to 13 September 2014. The conference comprised eight scientific sessions, four workshops and field excursions. Over 300 delegates attended this meeting, originating from 5 continents and 44 countries. An extensive report on the conference was prepared and is available on the EFPP website.

The board thanks prof. Mańska and her team for organizing a wonderful meeting with a varied and very interesting program.

8. Status Report of the twelfth EFPP Conference 2017 in Dunkerque, France (dr. P. Reignault).

The twelfth EFPP conference with the theme ‘Deepen knowledge in plant pathology for innovative agro-ecology’ has 257 participants originating from 16 EU countries and 9 non-EU countries. The board thanks dr. Reignault and his team for a well-organized and interesting meeting.

9. Progress Report of the thirteenth EFPP Conference 2020

The British Society for Plant Pathology will organize the thirteenth EFPP conference in 2020 in the UK. Names of organizing officers and venue are not known yet, more info will follow soon and will be presented in an addendum to these Minutes and on the EFPP web site.

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

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).

There were no bids from associated societies received, however some options came up during this 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)

The General Secretary will contact above mentioned societies regarding possibilities for the organization of the 2024 EFPP conference.

11. Any other business

- Prof. Escobar asks what the EFPP can mean for the societies and vice versa. What do we expect of each other? The EFPP was founded to facilitate cooperation between workers in the field of phytopathology. We organize conferences and we decided this meeting that we will grant scholarships for young researchers in order to be able to attend the meetings.
- The EFPP web site could be more attractive. Some ideas are:
 - o List of pathogens, who is working on what?
 - o What is going on in Phytopathology, links to groups, news
 - o A newsletter (however, there is already an ISPP newsletter)
- Prof. Belka offered her help to the General Secretary in preparing such pages for the website.
- Sweden and Belgium are in the process of creating a new phytopathological society as the old societies were not active anymore.
- The BSPP Presidential Conference 2017 will be organized in Nottingham, 11-13 September.
- The DSPS (Denmark) organizes local meetings and excursions
- The SEF organizes a Plant Pathology Congress in Toledo, 2018
- Prof. J. Polak makes a statement to support GMO

12. Closing

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

The meeting was adjourned at 21.15 h.