

PLANT, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DIVISION

Minutes of the electronic meeting held on 10 October, 2022, at 10.00 AM (CET)

Present: Ivo Frébort, Esteban Alcalde, Goetz Hensel, Ludger Wessjohann, Jeff Cole, Daniel Gibbs, Lydia Ugena, Alexander Wissemeier, Michaela Holecová

Excused: Ana Caño, Wolfram Brück, Sebastian Wendeborn

Agenda:

1. Apologies for the absence

Ana Caño, Wolfram Brück and Sebastian Wendeborn are excused.

2. New members of the Board

Lydia Ugena (Tradecorp International, Madrid, Spain) and Daniel Gibbs (University of Birmingham, UK) introduced themselves, participating in the board meeting for the first time.

3. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 22 March 2022 have been approved.

4. Division activities in 2022 included:

- help with the promotion of the EFB Spring Congress (virtual conference 10-13 May 2022);
- organization of the Green for Good VI (Olomouc CZ, 12-15 September 2022): participation of 4 division Board members (Ana Caño, Wolfram Brück, Esteban Alcalde, Ivo Frébort and Michaela Holecová) in the scientific and organization committees, delegates valued predominantly good networking atmosphere; the budget ended up with a surplus, mainly thanks to good sponsorship;
- EFB2022, virtual conference (4 - 5 October 2022) – Wolfram Brück participated in preparation, vision of continuation of the series also in the future.

5. Planned division activities for 2023

- a. EFB Spring Congress, virtual conference (March or April, 2023)

The next conference in the series of online meetings with a specific focus.

- b. European Healthy Soil Conference Series (Soil Fertility), Muttentz CH, 13 – 15 September, 2023

Physical conference focused on applied soil science, head organizers: Sebastian Wendeborn and Philippe Corvini, the website is now under preparation. Board members are welcome to help with its promotion and with suggestions of possible keynote speakers.

- c. Meeting on plant-based biopharmaceuticals, autumn 2023

A joint meeting of the Plant, Agriculture and Food division and the Biomedical division of EFB on the topic of plant-based biopharmaceuticals including valuable proteins, enzymes etc. Head organizer: Francesc Gòdia. Originally planned as a physical conference with the venue in Lleida (Spain), but maybe the virtual form would also be convenient, as it would enable more people to take part. So, plant-based biopharmaceuticals could either be the focused topic of the EFB Spring Congress, or the Spring Congress could represent a topical kick-off meeting for the autumn physical event.

6. Division website fee payments for 2021 and 2022 (€1.500 annually)

The Board approved that the financial surplus of the Green for Good VI conference will be used to cover the payment for the respective years.

7. Any other business

Ivo Frébort briefly summarized EFB's contribution to EC studies and surveys on new breeding technologies/genome editing. The Board discussed possible future outcomes of the legal change proposal that is under preparation by DG SANTE.

The Board agreed that the members who have never participated in the meetings should get the final notice. If they do not respond, they should be excluded from the Board.

As for participation in projects, the EFB can help by writing letters of support, but it cannot participate in projects as a regular partnering organization.

8. Next meeting

Proposed to the end of February/beginning of March, 2023.

Minutes taken by: Michaela Holecová

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