



## FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

### *Minutes of the FESPB Executive Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> April (16:00-17:30) on Microsoft Teams.*

Present: Jana Albrechtová, Laura De Gara, Christine Foyer, Heinz Rennenberg, Maria Dolores Rodriguez, Andrea Schubert.

Christophe Robaglia, incoming President of FESPB and Lucrezia D'Ettorre – cicongress contact person - participate to the discussion of point 1.

#### **1. Date of the Plant Biology Europe following the Turin Congress.**

The FESPB President, Andrea Schubert, outlines the work made in the last few months by the Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee of the Plant Biology Europe Congress (Turin 2020) that has been postponed because of the restriction imposed by Covid-19 pandemic. The EC discusses the possible new dates of the Turin and Marseille Plant Biology Congresses and decides that the next Congress (Turin) will be held in 2021, with the possibility of another postponement to 2022, if the pandemic situation should still hinder the movement across Europe of large numbers of people. The following Congress will be held in Marseille in 2024. The FESPB President assures that the postponement of the Turin Congress to the next year has no financial implications. The same will not be guaranteed if the Congress is further postponed of another year. The EC agrees to organize another EC meeting in September, in order to monitor the pandemic situation and its implication on big event organization.

#### **2. Problems related to Awards and Travel Grants.**

The Chair of Awards and Travel Grants, Jana Albrechtová informs that the winners of the travel grants have been identified and informed, while the process for the selection of FESPB Awards has been blocked at its beginning by the pandemic and the decision of postponing the Turin Congress. The EC decide that the winners of travel grants maintain the possibility to use the grants for the next Congress, if they are still interested in participating. The EC reserves the possibility to open a new procedure for the distribution of the grants that will still be available.

In relation to the Awards, the EC decides to postpone the deadline for the submission of applications to a new date that will be decided in line with the new deadlines of the Turin congress. The EC also decides to increase of one year the academic age of the FESPB Awards candidates, in order to allow the candidates that were already selected at national level to participate next year.

#### **3. Election of the new EC Members**

The Secretary General, Laura De Gara, reminds of the election of 3 new EC Members during the Turin Congress: Treasurer, Chair of Publications Committee and Chair of Awards Committee. The Secretary General informs that she have received the candidacies of Dr. Christian Zoerb - Germany, János Györgyey - Hungary and Isabel

Diaz - Spain for the positions of Treasurer, Chair of Publications Committee and Chair of Awards Committee, respectively. The Secretary General, also on behalf of the whole EC, thanks Heinz Renneberg, Dolores Rodriguez and Christine Foyer, who is still supporting the Federation as past Secretary General, for their strong impulse to FESPB development. She expresses her gratitude for having had the possibility to appreciate their value as plant scientists, their generosity in supporting the Federation and their human virtues in working together. The EC decide that as soon as the new website is ready, a period for presenting further candidacies will be open and the voting process will occur via the website.

**4. Web site**

The Secretary General illustrates a price estimation for a new web site, and that is waiting for other quotations. The EC discusses the characteristic required by the new website and delegates the Secretary General, with the support of Christine Foyer, for making arrangements with the previous web master on how to make a transition from the old website to the new one and for further discussing the financial aspect to the treasurer.

**5. Plant Global Council**

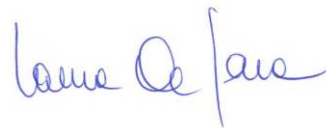
Christine Foyer reminds that a decision has to be taken on the opportunity to maintain the subscription to the Plant Global Council (PGC). The Treasurer reports the comment made by the Audit members to this purpose:

“As also noted in the previous audit there are continuing uncertainties about the value and benefit of contributions to the GPC so that the continuation of these payments should be reviewed” (Audit report for the period 2018-19). After a thorough discussion of this point the EC decide to discontinue the FESPB subscription to PGC. The Secretary General will inform PGC of this decision.

**6. Other aspects**

No other aspects have to be discussed by EC

*Read and approved by all the EC members*



*Laura De Gara FESPB  
Secretary General*

*24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020*