



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Minutes of the FESPB Executive Committee held on February 19nd, 2021 (13:30-15:00) by Zoom.

Attendees: (EC Members) Jana Albrechtova, Laura De Gara, Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez, János Györgyey, Cristophe Robaglia, Andrea Schubert, Christian Zörb

1. **Communication of the Chair of Grants**

The Chair of Grants, Jana Albrechtova, informs they have received 181 applications for grants supporting the participation to the next Plant Europe Congress, including 146 applications from 2020, from which 34 awardees in 2020 were already selected, and a new 35 applicants who applied in 2021. Several of them are not eligible, since they come from Countries where there are no Societies which are members of the Federation or which have not settled the membership fees. As for the last point, the treasurer, Christian Zörb, will inform again the National Delegates of the Societies who are responsible for the 2020 membership fees, that their students will not be admitted to the grant selection, unless the payment is made soon.

The Chair of Grants also informs that only 35 applicants sent all the requested information (abstract, cv, letter of reference from a member of one of the FESPB affiliated societies). The EC members decided to postpone the deadline for communicating the list of the winners to March 22nd.

The Chair of Grants is in charge of informing the applicants that must complete their application and the technical secretary of the Congress of the deadline postponement through the Congress website. Jana Albrechtova informs she needs to receive the complete information on the Countries that are eligible for the competition, according to the regular payment of the FESPB membership. Christian Zörb will send the complete list.

The Secretary General, Laura De Gara underlines the importance of distributing the grants among all the affiliated Societies. This attitude was carefully applied by the Chair of Grants during the first part of the grant selection in 2020 and is going to be continued. The Chair of Grants communicates they have received the availability of several National Delegates for composing the evaluation committee. The EC approves the evaluation procedures drawn by the Chair of Grants that has been synthetically described during the meeting.

2. **Plant Biology Congress in Marseille**

The Future FESPB President, Cristophe Robaglia, in charge of the organization of the XXIII FESPB Congress, informs the EC members that he has verified the possibility to organize the Congress in July 2022 instead of 2023. The EC members, after discussing the issue, decide unanimously to ask the LOC to move the Marseille Congress forward to 2022, with the idea of meeting the desire of the scientific community to have an “in presence” Congress as soon as possible.

3. **Website**

The Secretary General informs that the agency in charge of the new website is working on it and illustrates the new proposal. She asks all the EC members to view the texts of the different pages that are already available and to suggest changes or improvements to the provisional website visible through a link that will be available to the EC Members after the meeting.

4. **Organization of the work of the Executive Members**

The Chair of Publication, János Györgyey, informs they have created a Google drive folder for the EC members and explains the opportunities offered by this cloud system. The Secretary General informs that she will send the EC Members, according to their roles and competences in the EC, the information or requests she will receive by the FESPB scientific community, asking the collaboration of each EC member, and underlines the importance of carrying on the federation together.

5. **Other aspects**

The EC members decide that the date of the next meeting be March 19th and the the main issue will be to supervise the selection of grants for participation to the 2021 Plant Europe Congress.



Laura De Gara FESPB Secretary General

22nd of January 2021