



## **FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY**

Minutes of the FESPB Council Meeting, held on Tuesday, June 19th from 12.00-14.00,  
in Room 17 (LOC room) of the Bella Conference Centre, Copenhagen.

FESPB Executive and Council Members Present: To be added

### **AGENDA**

1. Introductions and approval of minutes of the 2016 FESPB Council Meeting (available on-line).

A round table of introductions was performed and the minutes of the 2016 FESPB Council Meeting were approved

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from three Societies.

3. Welcome to new members of the Council

The new members of the Council were welcomed.

4. Update and presentation of plans for the forthcoming Congress in 2018 (Prof. Andrea Schubert).

Professor Andrea Schubert gave a short presentation on the organisation of the 2020 meeting in Turin to date including the venue, accommodation available and budget. The need to agree a date in May/June 2019 for a meeting of the FESPB Executive Committee with the LOC to discuss progress with the organisation of the meeting was discussed.

5. Reports of Members of the Executive Committee
  - i. President (Stefan Jansson)

Professor Jansson gave a brief update on the organisation of the 2018 Congress.

ii. Secretary General (Christine Foyer)

Professor Foyer described the activities of the year including the signing of the memorandum for understanding with EPSO with regard to the organisation of the 2020 Congress in Turin. The webmaster Michael Wilson will move to take up a new post at the University of York on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. He will continue to fulfil his role in ensuring the maintenance and updating of the FESPB website. He will charge for his services directly to FESPB on a day rate basis.

iii. Treasurer (Heinz Renneberg)

Professor Heinz Renneberg gave a short presentation of FESPB budget including income and outgoings over the reporting period. He discussed the Societies that had not paid fees for several years and suggested that a new paragraph is included in the FESPB Statutes stating that Societies that had not paid fees for 5 years should lose FESPB membership. This was agreed unanimously by the Council. He asked for volunteers for two independent auditors to review the accounts before the end of 2018. Two Council members agreed to act as auditors for 2018.

iv. Chair, Grants & Awards Committee (Laura De Gara)

Professor Laura De Gara gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the FESPB Grants & Awards over the reporting period. She outlined the selection procedures for the selection of recipients of the travel grants and two FESPB awards for the 2018 Congress. She reported that 20 travel grants had been awarded. She discussed the applicant for the FESPB awards and the ranking of applicants that led to the final selection. She announced that unfortunately the Copenhagen Congress administration had failed to identify the submissions for the Student Poster Awards and that there was no way to resolve the situation. Hence there would be no Student Poster Awards for the 2018 Congress. It was agreed to increase the number of travel awards for the 2020 Congress to compensate for the absence of free registrations associated with the Student Poster Awards for the 2018 Congress.

v. Chair, Publications Committee (Maria Dolores Rodriguez).

Professor Dolores Rodriguez gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the Publications Committee, particularly the Newsletter and Facebook page. She reported that due to illness the Newsletters had not been prepared or circulated for 18 months. She had received no messages requesting the Newsletter or noting its absence. She discussed the possibility that the Newsletters should be terminated. It was agreed to discontinue the FESPB Newsletters with immediate effect. It was agreed that future contacts with the FESPB membership should be made through Facebook and Twitter. It was agreed that the Chair contacts Mr Michael Wilson to add new links from the FESPB Website to the FESPB Facebook and Twitter sites.

6. Nominations for Secretary General and Chair, Grants & Awards Committee from 2020

It was agreed that the call for nominations for the new Secretary General and Chair, Grants & Awards Committee to would continue until 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. An election would be held with on-line voting through the website until the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2018.

7. Bids for the 2022 Congress

The Hungarian Representative stated that the Hungarian Society would consider preparing a bid for the 2022 Congress.

8. Future FESPB activities

New FESPB awards were discussed. Professor Renneberg introduced the motion for introduction of new five travel awards (2000 Euros each) to be offered to young scientists for travel to other labs in Europe. This was agreed. Hence there is a need to prepare the guidelines for applicants. This should be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting that will be held in Turin in 2019. Professor Jansson ~~introduced the~~ introduced the motion to introduce a new FESPB senior award. This topic was discussed. It was agreed that a new Lifetime Achievement award should be introduced with effect from the 2020 Congress. This should have a value of 5,000 -10,000 Euros. Professor Renneberg stated that he was negotiating with publishers for Sponsorship of this award, which would have a value of up to 10,000 Euros. It was agreed that a second person should be elected to the Grants & Awards Committee in order to split this committee in Grants Committee and Awards Committee.

9. General Assembly (AGM)

It was agreed that it was not necessary to have an AGM at the 2018 Congress.

10. Any other Business

The Austrian Representative stated that the breadth of the FESPB activities in support of Membership should be increased. It was agreed that the introduction of new grants and awards went some way to resolve these concerns.



*Prof. C. Foyer, FESPB Secretary General, 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2018*