



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Minutes of the FESPB Council Meeting, held on Tuesday, July 4th h 12.30-14.00
room 36, PALAIS DU PHARO

Present:

Laura De Gara - EC member, Isabel Diaz- EC member (connected by Teams), Janos Gyorgyey - EC member, Christophe Robaglia - EC member (and on behalf France), Christian Zorb - EC member (and on behalf of Germany), Teresa Altabella (Spain), Jolan Cziszár (Hungaria), Christian Fankhauser (Switzerland), Tetiana Kalachova (Czech Republic), Fiorella Lo Schiavo (Italy), Ivana Maksimović (Serbia), Irina Vaseva (Bulgaria).

AGENDA

1. Introductions and approval of minutes of the 2021 FESPB Council Meeting (available on-line).
No objection was made on the minutes present in the FESPB website and the minute was approved.
2. Apologies for absence and introduction of the participant
A round table was done for introducing the participants to the meeting. Apologies for the absence were received from Slovenia. The Secretary General welcomed the Delegate from the Swiss Society of Plant Biology who participated for the first time to the Council meeting.
3. Resignation of Jana Albrechtová from April 12, 2023 and transitioning the Chair of Grants Committee to Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez.
Laura De Gara, as Secretary General, informed that Jana Albrechtová, Chair of Grants Committee, resigned for family problems. Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez accepted to act as Chair of Grants Committee, besides being Chair of Awards Committee, until the new election of the Chair. The Secretary General thanked Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez, on behalf all the EC, for the work she made for the selection of the students winners of the travel grants for this congress.
4. Update and presentation of plans for the forthcoming Congress in 2025 (Prof. Janos Györgyey, Hungarian Society of Plant Biology). Prof. Györgyey gave a brief illustration of the 2025 Congress in Budapest, presenting the composition of the LOC, the location and underlining the aspects that will characterize the congress
5. Reports of Members of the Executive Committee
✓ President (A Christophe Robaglia)
Prof. Robaglia gave some information on the PBE 2023Congress, giving the number of

the registered participants and the represented Countries, the number of the submitted abstract and other technical aspects the LOC had to cope with.

✓ Secretary General (Laura De Gara)

Prof. De Gara informed the Delegates that two new societies completed the process for becoming members of the Federation (the Swiss Society of Plant Biology and the Association of Applied Biology based in UK). She shortly described the activities of the EC in the past two years (formal meetings, the minutes of which are available in the web-site, definition of the rules and amount of grants for short term mobility and for supporting international events organized by at least one member society). On behalf of the EC, she asked to the National Delegated to be more proactive in the Federation life also proposing new initiatives and being available to carry them on. She also informed to have received several proposal for the organization of future congresses from agencies, but the only one that stated to be in contact with members of a Scientific Society belonging to FESPB, was a Spanish Agency. Prof. Altabella, as Spanish National representative, took all the information for discussing with its Society and confirming the possibility that the Spanish Society of Plant Biology presents a Bid for the 2027 Congress.

✓ Treasurer (Christian Zörb)

Prof. Zörb gave a short presentation of FESPB budget including income and outgoings over the reporting period. The Council approved the presented budget. He showed the Countries represented in the Federation through their National societies (now 23), underlining that the EC decided to maintain, without fee payment, the Russian Society of Plant Biology, which asked not to pay the fee even for 2023, because of their economic restriction, and the Ukrainian Society of Plant Biology.

✓ Chair, Grants & Awards Committee (Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez)

Prof. Diaz Rodriguez gave a short presentation concerning the activities of the FESPB Grants and Awards over the reporting period. She underlined that, for the constitution of the evaluation committee, all the national representatives were consulted, but very few Delegates answered. She remembered that for the 2023 PBE Congress, 20 travel grants, covering congress fee and accommodation, were given to young researchers (mainly PhD students). She also gave information on the process carried on for the selection of the two FESPB Awards.

✓ Chair, Publications Committee (and Web Media) (Janos Györgyey).

Prof. Györgyey gave a short presentation on the activities of the Publications Committee related to the Facebook page that reached more 3500 followers, a number similar to those of the biggest Scientific Societies of plant science in the world, and reported the statistics of the past months. He informed that a more interactive virtual space was opened two years ago -“FESPB info-X-change”- and that this web media also increased its followers (now about 400). He informed that this web media allows the participants to exchange information without the need of the administrator. In the discussion concerning this point, some Council Members suggested to use other web media (Linkedin, Research Gate, Twitter, Instagram, ect). The council decided to ask to all the National Delegates to identify some young collaborators who can support the Chair of publication (and Web Media) in this work.

6. Election of new members of the next Executive Council and future FESPB activities (deadline for presenting bids for the 2027 Conference)

The Secretary General remembered that to organize a voting process for the renewal of position that are at their end will be necessary. In particular the Secretary General finish her term at the end of this year and the Char of Grants resigned last April. The Council approved that the Secretary General informs the National Delegates that a call for candidacies for these two positions will soon open. The candidacies will be sent by e-mail to all these three e-mail addresses: info@FESPB.org, treasurer@FESPB.org and I.diaz@upm.ed.

The deadline for presenting candidacies is decided at September 30th 2023.

After such deadline, The Secretary General will sent to National delegates the list of the candidates and information on the voting process that will take place by web platform in the second half of October.

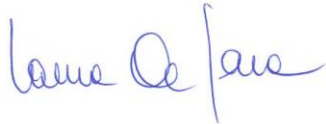
Prof. De Gara informed the Council that she is available for another mandate as Secretary General, but other candidates for this role are welcome.

7. General Assembly (AGM)

The Secretary General remembered that in the past Congresses the participation to the General Assembly was limited to very few participants. For this reason, during the opening ceremony she mentioned the general information that usually are given during the General Assembly, informing all the participant that election of some members of EC will be done before the end of the year and mentioning the activities made by the Federation during the past two years. The Council agreed the EC's suggestion for the future Congresses, to joint this assembly with the closing ceremony, in order to inform the participants also about any decision that the Council will take during its meeting.

8. Any other Business

No other business were presented for discussion.



Prof. Laura De Gara, FESPB Secretary General,

Marseille 4th of July 2023