



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Minutes of the FESPB Executive Committee held on September 26th and October 24th, 2024 - (17:00-18:00) by Zoom.

Present: (EC Members) Laura De Gara, Maria Isabel Diaz Rodriguez, János Györgyey, Christian Zörb

September 26th

State of the art of the next PBE congress

The EC revises the MOU and fixes the minimum number of the grants offered to young researchers for participating to the next PBE congress. The final version of the MOU will be signed by the President, Janos Györgyey, the Secretary General, Laura De Gara, and the Treasurer, Christian Zorb.

In relation to the dates of the congress, they suggest to reduce from 5 to 4 days the duration of the Congress, for reducing its costs. The President will verify the possibility of such changes in the dates.

The Secretary General asks to the President to give an update on the organization of the 2025 PBE. The President illustrates the congress venue, the composition of the LOC and opens the discussion on the proposed topics. The President also informs that the LOC have already defined a list of speakers for the plenary lectures and are contacting them. After a deep discussion, the topics proposed by LOC have been approved as following:

- Application of genetic improvements
- Aquatic plant biology and algal biotechnology
- Beneficial plant-microbe interactions
- Biotechnology and synthetic biology
- Cell biology
- Crop adaptation to climate change
- Dialogue with society
- Genomics and epigenomics
- High throughput phenotyping and remote sensing
- Nutritional homeostasis and water relations
- Photosynthesis and light regulation
- Phytohormones and other transmitters
- Plant immunity
- Plant morphogenesis and reproduction
- Plant nanobiology
- Plant secondary metabolism
- Plant-plant interactions and biocontrol
- Plants under abiotic stress
- Redox biology

The Secretary General underlines the importance of the international character of the Congress that must be evident in the selection of the invited speakers and the members of the Scientific Board/Committee.

Due to time limit, the Executive Committee decides to adjourn the meeting until October 24th at the same time.

October 24th

1) State of the art of the next PBE congress

The Secretary General gives the President the floor.

After showing the new Congress website and confirming the possibility to short of half day the congress (from 25 morning to 28 afternoon), the President informs the EC members on the composition of the International Scientific Board/Committee.

According to the LOC's suggestion, it will be composed by the main invited speakers and the members of the FESPB Executive Committee. After a short discussion on this issue and a check on the distribution of the Nationality of the researchers involved in the Scientific Board/Committee, the proposal is approved with the suggestion that in the web site, it is clear that the LOC has select the invited speakers, while the scientific board selects the oral presentations form the abstracts.

2) Request of support for International Conference

The Secretary General informs to have received a request of economic support from Carmen Sánchez Cañizares of the Royal Society University Research, Department of Biology, RMCR Kellogg College, University of Oxford.

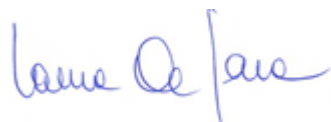
The EC agrees that FESPB gives economic support to international events only if somebody, among the organizers, is member of one of the affiliated societies. The Treasurer inform that, at present, the Association of Applied Biologist (AAB) from UK, has no yet confirmed its membership for 2024. The EC decides to ask to Carmen Sánchez if the organizers have some correlation with AAB and to solicit AAB' confirmation on its membership. The Secretary General takes charges of these issues.

3) Other aspects

The Treasurer shows the situation of the affiliated societies. The Scientific Societies of Belarus, Greece, Ukraine and Russia more than two years in default of payment of annual fees. The Treasures remembers that the Russia Society asked to pay but due to the European restriction it was not allowed to send money in Germany. The Secretary General suggests to maintain both Russia and Ukraine due to the war situation of these two countries. The EC agrees to cancel the membership of the Belarus and Greece scientific societies and, according to the FESPB Statute §6, letter c), to ask to the Council in the next Council meeting to ratify this decision.

The Treasures also suggest to delete the outdate information present in the FESPB website. Since at present the *Chair of the Publication Committee (and web media)* is also the President of the Federation, the Secretary General offer to make a first analysis of the website and to suggest how to update the texts there present.

1. No other aspects have to be discussed by EC.



Laura De Gara FESPB Secretary General

29th of October 2024