



# Newsletter 2/2014

## Newsletter for the Members of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR)

November 2014

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Dear Members,

This second newsletter of 2014 celebrates the success of the 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference organised by the Belgian Organisation Committee and masterminded by our past President **Jean-Pierre Goffart** from CRAW-Gembloux. The number of participants, the worldwide participation, the excellent quality of the presentations and the good balance between plenary speeches, parallel sessions, workshops, and scientific excursions promoted numerous exchanges between the delegates. This was also the occasion to enhance the good collaboration between the different international scientific Societies focussed on potato progress (PAA, APA) and also the special link with CIP, all present in Brussels. A synopsis of the conference is included on the following pages. Bravo Jean Pierre for your work! It will be difficult to follow you!

Thank you to the organizers for the friendly Belgian atmosphere which gave everyone the opportunity to learn about the “frietkot” tradition and its good accompanist Belgian bier!

During the Triennial Conferences our General Meetings take place which drive the development of our Association. This was also the case in Brussels.

The bye-laws of EAPR stay unchanged but the membership of the Council was modified following the retirement of three councillors who had each served for 6 years. To replace **Katrin Kotkas** (Estonia), **Louise Cooke** (UK) and **Serge Duvauchelle** (France), three new Councillors have been elected: **Catherine Chatot** (France), **Ilze Skrabule** (Latvia), and **Leah Tsrer** (Israel). We thank again the outgoing councillors for the quality of the work they have carried out for the Association and we give a warm welcome to the new arrivals! We wish also such congratulations for the new chair persons elected in the different Sections.

Regarding other changes in the Council, I will have the challenge to replace Jean Pierre and to continue the development of the activities which he initiated over his term in office. We will continue to promote the Association and the benefits it provides in the scientific and technical community by enhancing the role of our Country Representatives and developing promotional information. The survey launched after the Conference on the important research questions in potato science for the coming years is a good opportunity to promote the Association and develop its influence with stakeholders and on the direction of scientific programs while still keeping a good link with practice! The next three years will be also devoted to the preparation of the Triennial Conference which will be held in Versailles (France), 9 to 14 July 2017.

The choice of Poland for the subsequent Conference was also decided during the General Meeting. We congratulate **Jadwiga Śliwka** for her appointment to the Council as President elect and wish her our best for the planning of the 2020 Conference.

The first Council meeting of the renewed team will occur in January in Leuven. In the meantime we wish you our **Best Greetings for the end of the year!**

On behalf of the EAPR Council,  
**Michel Martin** (EAPR President)

**Return on the 19<sup>th</sup> EAPR Triennial conference in Brussels:  
A successful international event for the Potato Research!**

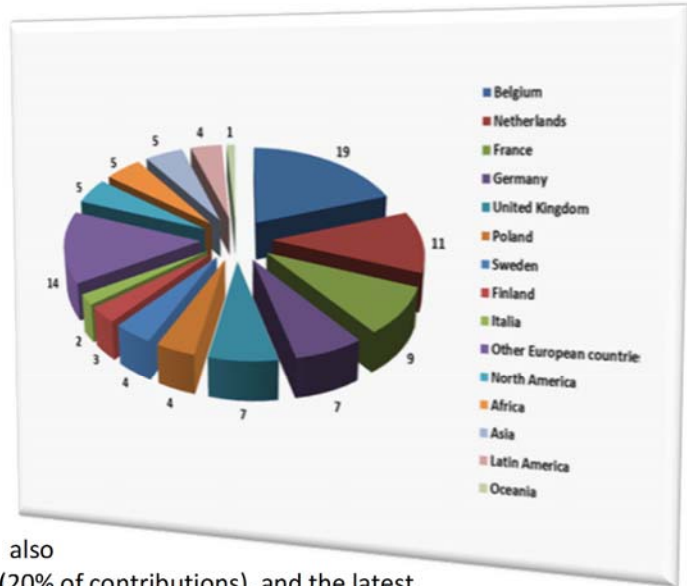


The 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Potato was held in Brussels from 6 to 11 July 2014. Under the presidency of Jean-Pierre Goffart, it was organised by a Belgian Committee constituted from the scientific agricultural research centres (CRA-W, ILVO), universities (UCL, UGent, Gbx-ULg, KUL / BD), technical centres (FIWAP, CARAH, PCA, INAGRO), administration (Vlaamse Gewest) and the Belgian potato industry (Belgapom).

The main theme of this conference was the sustainability of the potato crop and its industry, an essential dimension, like economic and environmental point of view than food security worldwide. The industrial processing sector is highly developed in Western Europe, especially in Belgium, the country currently holding the world leadership in the export of potato based frozen products.

The scientific topics covered all aspects of the production and marketing of potatoes, with a focus on the most recent advances on sustainable and innovative techniques. Recent progress in genomics and breeding were widely presented and with diseases and crop protection themes, these topics represented more than half of oral and posters contributions. Recent advances in agronomy, physiology, and plant production were also

detailed (20% of contributions), and the latest developments in post-harvest, preservation, quality and nutritional value of tubers (15% of contributions). Developments for more recent subjects in potato were also discussed: precision agriculture, biological control, socio-economy of the



potatoes, place of potatoes in global food security and the essential dimension of connection between research and practical needs (10% of communications).



To cover these topics, the conference program was structured around 14 plenary presentations from international experts, 131 oral presentations grouped into 22 parallel scientific sessions, six thematic mini-workshops, an ongoing session of 172 posters, and 6 scientific and cultural excursions through the potato production areas of Belgium.

The 410 participants (including 373 scientific delegates) from 56 different countries came mainly from Europe (80%) but also from North America (5%), Africa (5%), Asia (5%), Latin America (4%) and Oceania (1%). The collaboration between the different international Potato Research Societies was enhanced by the presence

of official delegations of APA (African Potato Association and its President **Dr. Gebre Endale**), PAA (Potato Association of America, including its President **Prof. Nora Olsen**) and ALAP (Asociación Latino Americana de la Papa). The presence of a delegation of 14 scientists from CIP (International Potato Centre, under the leadership of **Dr. André Devaux**) was much appreciated and contributed in the global discussions and exchanges during the Conference. Among the European participants from 27 countries, the top 5 was occupied by Belgium (19%), the Netherlands (11%), France (9%), Germany (7%) and the United Kingdom (7%).



Colorado beetle and



During the conference, the three "Best Poster Award" was awarded to **R. Thieme** (first prize) and **K. Rudack** (second prize) of Julius Kühn Institute in Germany for their respective work on



drought resistance. The third prize was awarded to **A. Beury Ciroux** from CNPPT in France for her contribution on monitoring and field testing of a biological control agent (*Rhodococcus erythropolis*) against bacterial agents of blackleg and soft rot.



The complete articles of plenary lectures and reports of workshops will be published in a coming special issue of our scientific journal Potato Research.

This impressive scientific program was completed by six excursions and a comprehensive, friendly social program which ended with the transfer of presidency of the President, **Ing.**



(ARVALIS, France). This was done in the atmosphere of the "Gilles de Binche". This is to organize the next Triennial.



Association to our new **Michel Martin** Belgian folk now the turn of France

This will be a real challenge after the success of the Belgian Edition!

### Council renewal:

**Three new councillors and a "President elect" elected in Brussel**

The existing Bye-laws of the EAPR specify that councillors are elected for a six year period. This is the reason why three new Councillors have been elected in Brussels during the General Meeting to replace **Katrin Kotkas (Estonia)**, **Louise Cooke (UK)**, **Serge Duvauchelle (France)** who will have accomplished their service in the Council. We thank them largely for the work they made during their six year presence.

We wish a friendly welcome to **their successors Catherine Chatot (France), Ilze Skrabule (Latvia), Leah Tsrer (Israel)**. The next council meeting in Leuven will allocate responsibilities to the Councillors to ensure that coordination is maintained with the members. Regarding the wish of Elina Virtanen to take on new work, it was agreed to elect Catherine Chatot as Secretary of the Association.

- **Dr. Catherine CHATOT** is a potato pathologist working in R&D department of the French breeding company Germicopa. She is an active member of the EAPR since 1986. She serves also as Country Representative (CR) for France since 2011.
- **Dr. Ilze SKRABULE** is a potato breeder in the State Priekuli Plant Breeding Institute (Latvia). Among others, she is involved in breeding for organic farming. She is member of EAPR and CR for a long time. She is also a member of EUCARPIA.
- **Dr. Leah TSROR** is a plant pathologist in the Department of Plant Pathology of ARO, Gilat Research Centre in Negev (Israel). She is a member of the EAPR and CR for many years. She organized the last EAPR Pathology Section Meeting in Jerusalem (2013) and was elected to chair this Section. Since 2006, she is an associate editor at Potato Research. She is also member of PAA.

To complete the Council, **Jadwiga Śliwka** has been chosen as President elect in order to organize the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference of EAPR in Poland which will take place in 2020. She will take on the EAPR Presidency at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Versailles (France), 9-14 July 2017.

- **Dr. Jadwiga ŚLIWKA** is the head of the Laboratory of Potato Pathology at the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in the Department of Potato Genetics and Parental Lines in Młochów Research Centre (Poland).

**Welcome to all of them in the Council with our best wishes for fruitful contributions!**

### News from EAPR sections:

#### **Chairs of three sections newly elected, sites of section meetings announced**

After being chairmen of their respective sections since up to nine years, **Mehmet Emin Caliskan** (Agronomy and Physiology), **Adrian Cunnington** and **Romke Wustman** (Postharvest co-chairs), and **Carl Spetz** (Virology) stepped down from their positions at EAPR 2014. During the section meetings in Brussels, their successors were elected: our former president **Jean-Pierre Goffart** (CRA-W, B) took over the chair of the Agronomy and Physiology section, **Glyn Harper** (AHDB Potato Council, UK) and **Tjaart Hofman** (Certis Europe bv, NL) will co-chair the Post Harvest section, while **Adrian Fox** (FERA, UK) heads EAPR's Virology section. **Finlay Dale** (James Hutton Institute, UK) remains chairman of the Breeding & Varietal Assessment section. **Leah Tsrer** (Gilat Center, ISR), who took over the chair of section Pathology from **Asko Hannukkala** at the 2013 Jerusalem meeting, continues in this function.

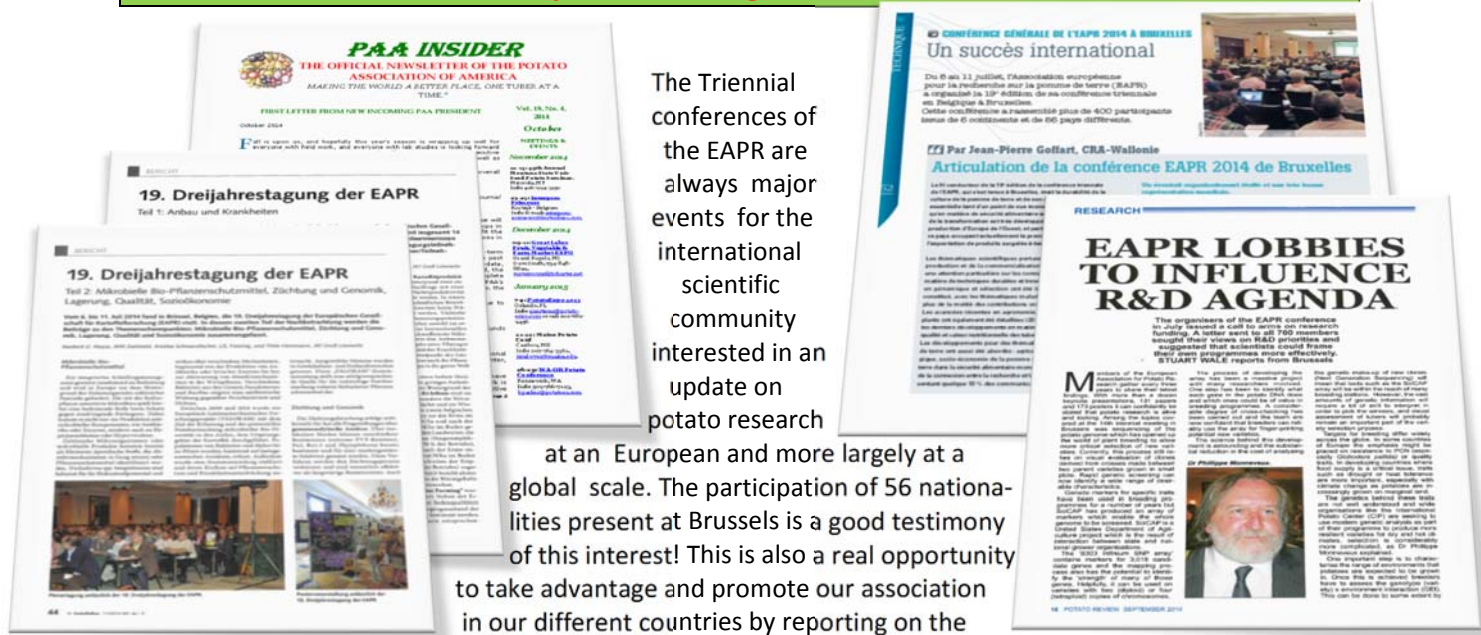
The detailed affiliations and addresses of the chairs you will find within short time on the EAPR section sites.

**The EAPR council expresses its sincere thanks to all current and especially to all former chairs of our sections.** They contribute(d) significantly in keeping our five sections alive and active. As a proof of this continued activity, the 2015 and 2016 meetings of the sections are already being planned. The details will be available soon on the sections' pages at [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net), a first overview you can find in the table below.

**EAPR Sections / chair persons and next meetings**

	AGRONOMY & PHYSIOLOGY	BREEDING & VARIETAL ASSESSMENT	POST HARVEST	PATHOLOGY	VIROLOGY
Chair until 2013/2014	Mehmet Emin Caliskan (since 2008)	Finlay Dale (since 2011)	Adrian Cunnington (since 2005) / Romke Wustman (since 2011)	Asko Hannukkala (since 2008)	Carl Spetz (since 2008)
Chairperson(s) 2014-2017	Jean-Pierre Goffart	Finlay Dale	Glyn Harper & Tjaart Hofman	Leah Tsror (since 2013)	Adrian Fox
Next section meeting	2015/2016	Nov. 2015	2016	2016	2016
Location	Latvia	Vico Equense / Napoli	To be confirmed	Scotland	Slovenia
Organizer	Ilze Dimante	Domenico Carputo	-	Ian Toth	Marusa Pompe Novak

**Promotion on the EAPR actions:  
Good initiatives for national press covering of our last 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference**



conference and the activities of our Association.

Numerous initiatives relating the Brussels Conference have been made by EAPR councillors, country representatives and members in different articles for scientists or technical professionals of the potato industry. Thanks a lot for that!

As an example of the good relationships we have with the other potato associations we need to acknowledge the report in the journal of the Potato Association of America (PAA Insider). In European potato magazines large numbers of pages have been devoted to the major advances in potato research reported during the conferences, such as reviews in Aardappelwereld (NL), Kartoffelbau (G), La Pomme de Terre Française (F), Potato Planet (F), Potato Review (UK), FIWAP- info (B), CRA-W info (B), Le Sillon belge (B) ...

**Thanks to all authors of these articles which help to make the EAPR better known and help to maintain a good connection between research and practice. Thank you in advance to the Country Representatives who we ask to develop further contributions like these!**

However, this list of articles about the EAPR conference is certainly not exhaustive and if any others are known to you, please let Country Representative know and they will be able then to pass this onto the Council which will collate all of the reports. You will find the name of your Country Representative on the web page [www.eapr.net/organization](http://www.eapr.net/organization).

**The forth-coming specialized sections meetings will be the next opportunity to develop such communications in the different countries .....**

**Survey on research questions in potato science:  
A few weeks remain for sending in your contribution!**

During the 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the EAPR in Brussels, on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, **Richard Visser** reported on the options to let the EAPR play a role in influencing the research agenda (e.g. through lobbying), initiating new research initiatives, or providing a platform to create research consortia or to report on joint research activities. In the extension of the animated discussion following this presentation, it was decided to carry out a survey to identify and rank the most urgent research questions in potato science for the period 2015 – 2025.

This survey was launched quickly after the Conference by an email call for contribution on July 30<sup>th</sup>. After three months, our action regarding research questions in potato science are well underway. We have received significant contributions from very diverse disciplines and are currently compiling these responses into an overview.

**During this process we could still include any additional contributions provided they arrive not later than December 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. So don't wait any longer before sending in your contributions!**

Please submit your contributions to [paul.struik@wur.nl](mailto:paul.struik@wur.nl).

**Membership application and renewal for 2015:  
Please act before December 31 with easy direct online contribution!!!**

**Please remember to renew your EAPR membership for 2015 to keep the many benefits you gain (see below)!** You can renew your membership online through the member login at the EAPR website [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net). Information about the procedure can be obtained from [info@eapr.net](mailto:info@eapr.net). Online membership renewal is secure, easy and works in real-time. The payment methods include secure credit card processing or PayPal. Please note that after online payment an **invoice** will be created automatically that you can download immediately.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. In this case, please contact our Treasurer, Kurt Demeulemeester, for information on how to do this ([kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be](mailto:kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be)).

**We would like to strongly encourage you to invite your colleagues to join the EAPR.** The membership application form is available at the EAPR homepage:

<http://www.eapr.net/membership/membership-application/>

Being a member of the EAPR and paying the annual subscription (60 Euros) offers multiple benefits:

- ✓ Online access to Potato Research, Euphytica and the American Journal of Potato Research,
- ✓ A print copy of Potato Research free of charge,
- ✓ Participation in the Triennial conferences and Section meetings at members' rates,
- ✓ Participation in Annual Meetings of the Potato Association of America at members' rates,

- ✓ English-language books from Springer can be ordered at a 20% discount!  
<http://www.springer.com/eapr?token=Be9DeX3w72K7Rsq>

Please note that if you fail to renew before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, you will lose your direct personal and free online access to the three journals (*Potato Research*, *Euphytica* and *American Journal of Potato Research*) until your membership is renewed!

Consider also the value of your organisation becoming a Sustaining Member of the EAPR.

For details see [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net).

## **Romke Wustman is a new Honorary Member of the EAPR:**

### **A reward for rendered services!**

With the recommendation of the Council, **Romke Wustman** was nominated as **Honorary Member of the EAPR** during the last triennial Conference in Brussels. Adding to his long-term participation in the activities of the Association, this nomination honours his significant contribution as treasurer of the Council during the period of Association renewal and transfer of its administrative office from Netherlands to Belgium.

After an introduction by the President Jean Pierre Goffart, the acknowledgement speech was made during the conference diner by Anton Haverkort, past Secretary of the Association and long-time Dutch colleague of Anton. He said:

*“Thank you Mr President to allow me to be the first to address Romke Wustman in his position as Honorary Member of our Association.*

*The rules of the EAPR stipulate three items for a member to merit this distinguished position:*

1. *He or she should have a long standing career – in other words – not be too young. This has two advantages: there is little time left for the candidate to commit a faux pas that would bring a stain to his standing and a disgrace to the society. Another advantage is that the fringe benefits such as a free subscription are not excessive seen the reduced longevity of the candidate! Regarding his age we may conclude that Romke complies with the rules, it is his last Triennial before retirement next year. Regarding faux pas and mis-steps I fear Romke will continue to blunder as usual but no longer in the limelight, rather more in the shade so we will not notice and no harm will be done to the EAPR. Regarding costs of your Honorary Membership to the Society in the years to come Romke I hope they will be high when accumulated over many years to come.*

2. *This brings me to the second condition to become an Honorary Member: you must have substantially contributed to the Association. Romke Wustman volunteered – after having been asked - to become Treasurer of the Association in a time when the association was at peril financially, organizationally and regarding the continuity of its Journal. This necessitated the Council to restructure key elements of the organization such as 1) firstly publishing *Potato Research* by Springer rather than managed by the Association which turned the Journal into an asset rather than a liability; 2) secondly the Council altered the Constitution after elections and moved the office from the Netherlands to ISHS in Leuven. This proved to be much more cost effective and finally opened up positions of Secretary and treasurer for non-Dutch. All this required very many more financial and organizational tasks for the Treasurer than for previously. It also and would strongly diminish the task load of your successors. Thanks to Council decisions and your scrupulous work: from yearly losses when you started the treasure chest showed a healthy balance when you left the position in 2011.*

*As an anecdote to show Romke's commitment to the Association: leaving Leuven after successful negotiations with ISHS sometime in 2011 to establish the EAPR secretariat with them; mighty mist with all highways traffic-jammed we decided to take back-roads, without a SatNav from Belgium to the Netherlands. We spend all night on the road and ate Belgian Fries in a fritkot in a misty country side and really felt "bienvenue chez les Chti's" It took us 10 hours to cover 200 km and arrived home early morning!*

3. *Third conditions is you must have impacted potato science and or the potato industry to become an Honorary member. This you certainly did over the last 37 years you were involved in potato related R&D activities in over 40 countries – mostly developing ones - in some of which you resided such as Pakistan and Bangladesh and to others you completed frequent missions such as to China, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Argentina. You had impact on potato R&D programs there, especially regarding your agronomic specialties of seed production and post-harvest handling and storage.*

*Romke enjoy your retirement next year, you leave a grateful Society behind and we are confident that when we need you again we can call on you.*

*Romke, on behalf of the members of the European Association for Potato Research I have the honour to thank you profoundly."*

**The renewed EAPR Council will hold its 60<sup>th</sup> meeting  
in Leuven (Belgium) on 22/23 January 2015 at the ISHS Office**

**If you have any question to be discussed there please feel free to send it  
through your Country Representative or by emailing any Councillor**

**The EAPR Council members wish you their best  
Seasonal Greetings for the end of the year!**