



**Minutes of the 18th general meeting of the EAPR
Aro Palace, Brasov Romania**

1. Opening by President Sorin Chiru at 18:30. 74 Member/attendees were present and signed the designated distributed forms. Council members present: Anton Haverkort, Jari Valkonen, Romke Wustman, Mike Storey, Norbert Haase, Enrique Ritter, Johan Haarhuis, Paul Struik
2. During the previous three years the Council was notified of the passing away of EAPR Niel Theron from South Africa. The meeting observes a moment of silence.
3. The Secretary reads the list of decisions taken at the 16th general meeting. This is agreed by the meeting.

The president reads the report of the council (attached). This is agreed by the meeting after some discussion:

- Question: how was the clean-up done? Answer: three times an invoice was sent to not paying members, then when still not paid, removed. This resulted in a reduction of membership from over 500 to less than 250
 - Question: when sections meetings attendance is calculated it adds up to more than 250? Answer: not all present there are EAPR members
 - Question: why is there not much progress with cooperation with the PAA? The vice-president explains what is and was discussed with PAA. A member: Let's collaborate but we should not substitute meetings one for the other because it is too expensive for members to make intercontinental trips". We work on cooperation regarding the journals.
 - Question: the reduction of members what do we do about it? Jari Valkonen answers what the extra-ordinary council meeting discussed the day before.. Most of the difficulties are behind us now, We planned promotion actions with country reps and section chairpersons and intend to bring out a news letter.
 - Question: why did we not receive an agenda? Answer of the secretary: it was sent as part of all documents for this meeting in a single PDF. An agenda will be projected at the next general meeting.
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4. Report of the treasurer. The financial situation is shown in the tables below. The treasurer remarks that as many members discontinued payments they were removed from the list after having been reminded. The list was thus cleaned up after the completion and issuing of volume 49 (2006). The meeting approves the report as read after some discussion.

Bank accounts	31 Dec 2005	31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2007
ABN AMRO current	7,278.90	18,628.75	9,042.51
ABN AMRO deposit	4,299.96	4,331.29	4,355.04
ABN AMRO savings	12,842.47	13,181.52	13,497.86
Postbank current	1,875.33	2,202.57	4,016.12
Total	26,296.66	38,344.13	30,911.53

Excluding Bio Exploit (EU funded program)

31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2007	Total
2,213.78	25,843.40	28,057.18

Amounts in and out	2005	2006	2007
In	90,078.31	74,234.68	18,751.69
Out	88,373.66	58,884.18	19,754.22

Budgets 2008 and 2009 based on shown estimates of membership

Amounts in			2008	2009
Ordinary members	230	60	13,800	13,800
Sustaining members	18	450	8,100	8,100
Springer			4,000	4,000
Total in			25,900	25,900

Amounts out			2008	2009
Europoint / ISHS			10,472	3,500
Postal charges			1,000	1,000
Springer - ordinary members			7,500	7,500
Springer - sustaining members			3,300	3,300
Student solutions			250	250
Chamber of commerce			25	25
Additional costs			2,500	2,500
Total amount out			25,047	18,075

- Question? 2006 and 2007 difference of bank statement of € 6000
- Question: have all 28 Swedish members received invoices? Answer: the treasurer explains the procedure followed. It is suggested to improve the system by involving the country representatives. They will receive the list of members of their country before and after clean-up. They are requested to verify the data and contact those members who stopped their payment of contribution fees.
- A remark: please do not look only for old members: find new members as well. E.g. in UK there are more than 62 potato researchers. We have to look for more, have to offer them value, supervisors of students are they members? Find it out! Country representatives will be asked to follow up.
- Question: the EU-project Bioexploit paid the EAPR, why did this happen? Answer: its goal is knowledge transfer, that was what we do in special issues of Potato Research and in the Bioe3xploit workshop as part of the 17th triennial and merits the financial contribution.

5. Report of the Editor-in-Chief

The report (of which the association can be proud) is summarized and discussed as shown below and was accepted as presented.

Report in brief:

Decisions taken:

- As of 2006 (Volume 49) Springer publishes Potato Research
- Editor-in-chief: Paul C. Struik
- Co-ordinating editor on behalf of EAPR: Willemien J.M. Lommen
- Managing staff Springer: Jacco Flipsen and his team
- 35 members of editorial board, increase of geo-scope

Record of appearance:

- Volume 46 (2003/4) issues 1-2 published in 2005, before Bilbao
- Volume 46 (2003/4) issues 3-4 published in 2005, after Bilbao

- Volume 47 (2004/5) issues 1-2, published
- Volume 47 (2004/5) issues 3-4, published
- Volume 48 (2005) issues 1-2, published
- Volume 48 (2005) issues 3-4, published
- Volume 49 (2006), 4 issues including special issue on Bilbao papers and letters from publisher and editor
- Volume 50 (2007), including special double issue The Canon of Potato Science with 50 contributions*
- Volume 51 (2008) issue 1, special issue on late blight and genetic modification (on the web)*

Planning

- Volume 51 (2008), (2), regular issue (partly in galley proof stage)
- Volume 51 (2008), (3), Brasov papers (partly received)
- Volume 51 (2008), (4), Bioexploit special (partly received)
- Volume 52 (2009), (1), regular issue
- Volume 52 (2009), (2), mini-reviews (mostly received)
- Volume 52 (2009), (3), regular issue
- Volume 52 (2009), (4), regular issue

Note: regular issues (when completed) will get priority above special issues

Turn around time (days from submission to	EiC assignment	Reviewer invitation	First decision
2006	1.9	32.6	123.3
2007	1.7	29.7	112.5
2008 YTD	2.5	25.8	90.3

- Remark: to receive more manuscripts the Journal needs more confidence. If an author submits now it could be on-line within 100 days if it does not need revision. If too many papers come we could also move to 6 issues per year which, however, is not likely.
- Question: there is no impact factor now. How about next 3 years? Answer: Editor-in chief: we have regular flow now, tomorrow it will be discussed with the editorial board and the Springer representative.
- Question: Can we read articles on the website? Answer: Yes when approved and later when issue is out, it appears fully.

Additional points raised:

- The journal needs papers so the meeting is asked to send in as many as possible
- Until the present editorial board was formed, the Council was the editorial board, the Council will review its role during the next council meeting in January 2009.

6. Election of new Council.

The 2005-2008 council proposed the following composition of the 2008-2011 council

President	Jari Valkonen
Past President	Sorin Chiru
Vice president	Mike Storey
Secretary	Anton Haverkort
Treasurer	Romke Wustman
Councilor	Norbert Haase (coordinator of country representatives)
Councilor	Serge Duvauchelle (coordinator of scientific cooperation)
Councilor	Katrin Kotkas (coordinator of section chairs)
Councilor	Louise Cooke (coordinator of cooperation with other societies)
President elect	Jean-Pierre Goffart (the Council proposes Belgium to host the 18 th Triennial in (2014)
Non executive	Editor-in-chief (Paul Struik)
Non executive	Representative of the EAPR administrative office

The new council composition is approved by acclamation.

New members introduce themselves

Serge Duvauchelle, France
Katrín Kotkas : Estonia
Louise Cooke, Ireland
Jean-Pierre Goffart, Belgium (also introduces Marc Goeminne of (PCA)

8. Venues of forthcoming triennial meetings

The 18th triennial will be hosted by Finland chaired by Jari Valkonen, Belgium has offered to host the 19th Triennial in 2014 meaning that Jean-Pierre Goffart will become president elect as of 2008 and president of the Association as of 2011.

9. The council has nominated two honorary members that will be announced at the conference dinner.

10. Jari Valkonen shows the 2011 convention site Oulu in Finland, the northernmost spot in Europe where potato is grown.

11. The President thanks the members present and closes the meeting at 20:00 hrs.