

Notes on the meeting of the Engineering & Utilisation Section of the EAPR held at the Oulu City Theatre, Oulu, Finland on 26 July 2011 at 15:00 hrs.

Present: Adrian Cunnington, UK (Chair); Antonio Calado, Portugal (Heinz); Dong Chil Chang, South Korea; Kürt Demeulemeester (incoming Treasurer, EAPR); Joe Guenther, USA; Norbert Haase, Germany (retiring Council Member, EAPR); Anton Haverkort, The Netherlands (retiring Secretary, EAPR); Barbara Lutomirska, Poland; Michel Martin, France (incoming President-Elect, EAPR); Mike Storey, UK (Vice-President, EAPR); Michiel van Hoof, The Netherlands (Farm Frites); Burkhard Wulf, Germany; Romke Wustman, The Netherlands (retiring Treasurer, EAPR).

Apologies for absence: There were none.

Report on the meeting held at the 17th Triennial Conference in Brasov, July 2008

Adrian Cunnington circulated minutes of the previous meeting, which had been previously reported in the Section Newsletter issued in Summer 2008.

Chair's report on Section activity 2008-2011

Adrian Cunnington reported on the activity of the section between the triennial Conferences. Unfortunately, this had been quite limited since the Brasov meeting. Two newsletters were issues, one in 2008, one in 2009. However, attempts to run a Section Meeting alongside *Potato Europe* held in Emmeloord (the Netherlands) in 2009 had not been successful. A session was organised as part of the Conference at the event but other activities due to be hosted by Romke Wustman were dropped when it became clear that there was insufficient uptake for these to be viable. Adrian Cunnington thanked Romke Wustman and Adrian Briddon for their work on this on behalf of the Section.

Future of the Section

Adrian Cunnington instigated a discussion on the future of the Section, which had also been discussed at the Council meeting in January 2011. This had arisen as the Section had been unable to attract sufficient support to run its Section Meeting at Emmeloord in 2009.

A major issue raised was that of the name and remit of the Section and, after discussion, it was agreed that the Section should adopt a new name to reflect a post-harvest focus in its activity.

Adrian Cunnington asked the membership to consider the implications of such a change for those involved in field engineering. Burkhard Wulf and Michel Martin, who both work in this area, felt that there was now a better 'fit' and relevance for these types of activity (planting, cultivations, precision agriculture etc.) in the Agronomy Section. After discussion, it was agreed by those present that this was a reasonable solution and it was agreed that the Engineering & Utilisation Section would move to a post-harvest remit and be renamed.

The name to be adopted is the **Post-Harvest Section**.

Election of Section Chair for the period to 2014

There were no nominations nor volunteers to take over as Chair of the newly named Post-Harvest Section. However, Romke Wustman offered to take on the role as a co-Chair, so that he could work as part of a team. He proposed that he do so with Adrian Cunnington staying on as the other co-Chair to ensure some continuity through the transitional period. The position could then be reviewed again in 2014.

After consideration, Adrian Cunnington agreed to Romke Wustman's proposal and serve a further term.

Therefore **Adrian Cunnington** and **Romke Wustman** were elected co-Chairs of the Section for the period to the next triennial conference to be held in Belgium in 2014.

Future activity

A discussion was held on future Section activity, focusing on the organisation of a high profile Section Meeting to boost awareness and support for the Section and its new focus.

It was proposed and agreed that the co-Chairs, working with others, should approach any organisations they feel relevant to try to organise such a Meeting. It was accepted that linking up with other groups was likely to be the most successful way in which to proceed on this.

Suggestions included:

- Linkage with the International Potato Processing and Storage Convention, organised annually by Crier Media. This annual meeting alternates between Europe and North America and is due to be held next in Europe in summer 2012.
- Linkage with the Potato Association of America as part of the on-going Council initiative, possibly to organise a Joint Meeting. Joe Guenther offered to liaise with Nora Olsen from the University of Idaho, who heads up the Post-Harvest group within the PAA.
- Development of stronger ties and engagement with industry, both as individual companies but also through European trade associations.

Mike Storey said he hoped the section membership would support the activity of the new section to enable it to run a successful section meeting in 2012/13.

Any other business: There was none.

Adrian Cunnington thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 15:51.