



IFFA Annual Meeting 2017 **DRAFT**

Minutes

15 March 2018, Forestry House, Brussels, Belgium

Participants

(Austria (Felix Montecuccolli), Canada (Peter deMarsh), Finland (Juha Martilla), Germany (Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg), Lithuania (Algis Gaižutis) Luxembourg (Hubert de Schoerlemer), CEPF (Panny-Pomme Langue), CEPF/Nordic Forestry (Louise Daving Götberg), Nepal (Barsha Parajuli – by Skype), Norway (Ellen Alfsen), Sweden (Lennart Ackzell and Sven-Erik Hammer), Secretariat: Ellen Alfsen and Ivar Legallais-Korsbakken

1. Introductions

The IFFA Chair, Peter deMarsh, chaired and opened the meeting. The participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of proposed agenda

Decision

Agenda approved

Approval of the minutes, Annual Meeting 2016

Decision

Minutes approved

3. Reports on the work of the past year, including Chair's report and review of effectiveness

A slide show (Lennart Ackzell) demonstrating IFFA 2016 activities was presented in connection with the Chair's report.

Chair Peter deMarsh gave a brief report on the highlights, important activities and the IFFA achievements in 2017.

IFFA has continued to make an impact by participating in a large number of international events.

The IFFA message is clear: sustainable management of family forests is carried out with best results when four basic conditions are in place: secure tenure, fair access to markets, good extension services, and strong associations. We have been privileged in recent years to have new members join IFFA from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. When we consider those four basic conditions in detail, the challenges faced by family forest owners may be very different from one continent to another. When we look at them as broad, general principles, they apply equally to all of us.

We were very active at UNFF12 in May in New York with a delegation of four, each contributing a statement to general discussion, with good references to family forestry issues in the final report of the session. We also organized a Side event on “More wood from sustainably managed forests” which we hope will make a contribution to helping bring this issue to the forefront in Climate Change negotiations.

A second major effort by IFFA last year was our involvement in the Conference of forest producer associations in Africa, held in September in Tanzania. Representatives from 14 countries were present, including significant numbers of women and youth, and a number of promising follow-up actions were identified. An additional concrete result for IFFA was the expression of interest by several associations in becoming members of IFFA.

In the Work Plan approved at last year’s Annual Meeting, we proposed a specific target: clear recognition by COP23 of the UNFCCC on the importance of “More wood from sustainably managed forests” (now being referred to as “Sustainable Wood”). We learned that such an ambitious goal requires much sustained effort over several years. Perhaps another lesson is that while setting specific targets is a good idea, we should never lose sight of IFFA’s core function, to bring the voice of family forest owners to all international discussions on global forestry issues. We must remember that achieving clear recognition and understanding of our message is long, slow work that requires persistence by a large team over a number of years. We can take some satisfaction from our efforts when we see that in international discussions of forestry issues, such as the “Halting Deforestation” Conference at FAO three weeks ago in Rome, serious people now consistently recognize family forest owners (“forest smallholders” as we have come to be called from a global perspective) as an important player in the future of the world’s forests. We have had some good friends, allies, and partners in this effort and we must thank them also. In particular, we need to thank the Forest and Farm Facility. Opportunities to build new partnerships have also emerged such as with the ITTO and IUFRO. “Slow but steady” has gotten results. And, there is much more to do.

The chair thanked the board, the organisation and the secretariat for the support in 2017. He informed the annual meeting that the Norwegian Federation has asked to have the secretariat housed in another location and that the Board is working on a new solution. The present secretariat will function until a new arrangement is found and will work to secure a smooth transition.

The Chair thanked the Norwegian Federation most warmly for being such a fine host for the past six years, and Ellen and Ivar for all of their hard work. IFFA cannot get results without an effective and dedicated Secretariat, and the organisation has been very fortunate to have had such support.

4. Economic report

The treasurer, Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg, presented the 2017 economic report. The treasurer presented the 2018 budget as well.

Decision

The economic report approved

5. Work plan for 2018

Board member Lennar Ackzell presented the proposal for work plan 2018.

Important task will be to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of IFFA as a global family forestry network and increase the relevance of IFFA to its members as forum for exchange of experience, information and ideas.

Arrangements of the new secretariat and continue improvement of communications newsletter and web-site activities.

Support members and stimulate organisation of new forest owner organisation and members.

Follow up the Tanzania conference and help organising a climate funds workshop in East Africa.

Communicate with UN bodies, Participate in the UNFF work, SBD, UNFCCC and influence international forest policy processes and becoming increasingly recognised as a key participant.

Increase the understanding of family forestry as important in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Seek to recognise increased use of sustainable wood as tool against climate change in the COP24 and UNFCCC declarations.

Strengthen cooperation with groups vision and objectives, including the international alliance of community and indigenous peoples' forestry, GACF and IAITPTF.

Strengthen the collaboration with FAO and FFF, ITTO, PEFC, RRI, IIED, IUCN and TFD

Establish dialogue with the World Bank at World Business Council for sustainable development

Decision

The Work Plan 2018 approved

6. Proposal for membership fees for 2018

The treasurer Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg presented the proposal for the membership fee 2018

The IFFA Board has worked on a new fee structure, taken into account the large difference of economic capacity among the IFFA member organization and the need to strengthen the IFFA budget. During the work the board has consulted member organisations.

The proposal for 2018 membership fees is:

- Small economic capability member organisations 250 Euros
- Medium economic capability member organisations 500 Euros
- Large economic capability organisations 1.500 Euros
- Small economic capability associate member organisations 250 Euros
- Large economic capability Associate member organisations 500 Euros

In consultation with the Board the members may choose their fee category according to their economic capability

Decision

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7. Report from the Nomination Committee and Election of the Board

Olivier Bertrand presented the proposal for the election of the IFFA Board. The proposal was made after consultations with national and regional members.

Decision

The Annual Meeting unanimously elected the IFFA Board:

- Peter DeMarsh (Canada) Chair
- Pentti Linnamaa (Finland) vice-chair - new
- Lorenz Freiherr Klein von Wisenberg (Germany) Treasurer
- Lennart Ackzell (Sweden)
- Charles Nyanjui (Kenya) - new
- Manuel Garcia (Mexico)
- Jog Raj Giri (Nepal)
- Felix Montecuccoli (Austria) – new

8. Election of the Nominations Committee

Chair Peter deMarsh presented the proposal for election of the Nominations Committee

Decision

The Annual Meeting unanimously elected the IFFA Nominations Committee:

- Olivier Bertrand (France)
- Marc-André Côté (Canada)
- Tanja Olsen (Denmark) - new

9. Suggestions for Annual Meeting 2018

Decision

The Board must follow up the issue and look for opportunities to organising the annual meeting 2018 in conjunction with other international meetings.

10. Guest speaker: Benjamin Musall from DG Trade at EU Com

Mr. Musall informed the audience about the ongoing trade negotiations and how forest products have been dealt with.

Title of his speech was “Ongoing Trade Negotiations, an EU COM perspective”

Mr. Musall gave a very interested audience an overview of trade issues relevant for EU forestry sector with relevance to forest owners in other continents as well.

He gave an overview of important ongoing market access cases among them

- Russia – birch logs export quotas and export tariff-rate quotas for spruce and pine
- Belarus – wood export restrictions
- Ukraine – wood export ban
- New opportunities – EU-Canada and EU-Japan
- Selection of EU-EFTA negotiations
- China

The audience and the guest speaker had a very fruitful discussion and Mr. Musall invited the annual meeting representative to contact him in DG Trade G.3 at Benjamin.Musall@ec.europa.eu of telephone **Tel. +32-2-29-56012**

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