

## **Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society, Held September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Euphorbia Society was held on occasion of the Europese Landen Konferentie (ELK) at Blankenberge, Belgium. Present were twentyfive I. E. S. members, and seven Committee Officers (Christian Blenn, General Support Officer; Volker Buddensiek, Editor; Piet Huesman, Vice-Chairman; Jaap Keijzer, Curator of the Reference Collection; Pjotr Lawant, Secretary & Asst. Editor; Bob Potter, Treasurer and Membership Administrator; and Rikus van Veldhuisen, Chairman).

**1. Opening.** The Chairman of the I. E. S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, opens the Annual General Meeting and welcomes the I. E. S. members and officers as present.

**2. Minutes.** The Chairman asks the members as present for approval of the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as published on the website; put to the vote the Minutes are unanimously agreed by the meeting.

### **3. Brief Reports.**

(1) The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, notes that about the attendance of this actual AGM all I. E. S. members have been informed by way of the website. He recalls to mind that the financial position of the I. E. S. enables the Society to publish its journal *Euphorbia World* three times per annum, just as we have in mind. In addition he informed about the sales level of the *Jatropha* book of Daphne and Albert published with support from the society in 2017 that is nearly sold out to date. Finally he indicated towards topic 8 of the AGM.

(2) The Vice-Chairman, Piet Huesman gave details on the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Meeting on local base held in the Netherlands.

(3) The Secretary, Pjotr Lawant, reports that in the course of the year a lot of people wanted to know more about the society and texts published by the society. All got informed appropriately. He thanked Bob Potter to take over all duties necessary to collect from back payers to get the obligatory subscription payments. Pjotr Lawant informed the members as present about his database regarding very early *Euphorbia* plant portraits. Within that task he got in contact with interested people and took the chance to inform about the unique character of the society. He mentioned that he liked to co-edit the past *Euphorbia World* issues together with Brian Bates in terms of team work. This resulted upon request by the Editor, Volker Buddensiek.

(4) The Treasurer, Bob Potter, regards the actual financial status of the I. E. S. as being in good condition, although attention must be paid to the increasing postal costs of sending the journal. He stated the absolute number of society members yields around 200 persons. A remarkable drop of members was recognized in the United Kingdom within the last years and therefore a special effort is needed to stabilize that situation. Moreover, the number of society members in the United States of America asks the society to establish a local representative to propagate the interests of the society.

(5) The Editor, Volker Buddensiek, reports that thanks to our Membership Administrator, Bob Potter, the issues of *EW* were distributed just on time to the members of the I. E. S. The Editor stresses again that members must not hesitate to submit papers about *Euphorbia* species to the Editor; all their experiences with specimens of the genus *Euphorbia* are considered recommendable. He informed the members about a planned review by our president Susan Carter published within the next issues of the *Euphorbia World* journal. The editor asks members to share information about the temperature tolerance of *Euphorbia* plants in culture and habitat.

(6) The Curator of the Reference Collection, Jaap Keijzer, welcomes everyone to visit the collection. He stated the collection in good shape and wealth.

(7) The General Support Officer, Christian Blenn, notes that there were some questions by interested people all over the world regarding various aspects on *Euphorbia* cultivation and activities of the society.

**4. Member's reactions about the reports.** Upon request, some more details are given. In general, members as present are pleased with the activities as performed up to now by the Committee Officers.

**5. Report about the maintenance of the I. E. S. website.** Peter Arthur shared information about the status of Society's web page. So far the web page functions well and any service work needed is quick and easy. Nevertheless the web page design is fairly complicated and aged up to date. The software must be renewed to fulfill their functions in the future. The present members allowed the society a profound financial investment to upgrade the web design towards a more state of the art design and properties.

**6. Comments or questions received from members in the course of the past year.** The members as present all seem to be contented with the subjects as presented and the discussions about them; no further comments or questions are raised.

**7. How to increase the number of subscribers.** No special suggestions are given.

**8. Presentation of the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Euphorbia Convention.** Caused by the absence of Publicity Officer Thomas Cammaerts the Chairmen shared information sent by Thomas Cammaerts regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Euphorbia Convention. The Chairman Rikus van Veldhuisen reported the progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Euphorbia Convention celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of the society. He announced the date, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019, and confirmed the Botanic Garden Meise in Belgium again as the place of the event. Rikus van Veldhuisen thanked society's Publicity Officer Thomas Cammaerts for the enthusiastic work done so far and in future in term of convention organization. The final schedule of lectures given by international hobby and professional botanists was presented and a view into the scientific euphorbia collection of the Botanic Garden Meise was mentioned to round up this next year highlight. The maximum number of participants is set on 150, and the Chairman invited each member and other interested people to join.

**9. Summary and final conclusion.** The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, is pleased to see that we may look back on a successful general meeting.

**10. Closure of the AGM.** The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, summarizes the contents of the meeting. He thanks everyone present for their attendance and for their contributions, and closes the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM of the I. E. S.