

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
EUPHORBIA SOCIETY HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

On September 10th, 2011 an Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society was held on occasion of the Europese Landen Konferentie (ELK) at Blankenberge, Belgium.

Present were ten I.E.S. members and 4 Committee members (Jaap Keijzer, Non-executive Official, Pjotr Lawant, Librarian & Assistant Editor, Bob Potter, Treasurer and Rikus van Veldhuisen, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Publicity Officer). With notice of absence were four I.E.S. members (Noor de Groot, Heinrich Kubbier, Ada Schoonderwoerd, Diny Winthagen) and with notice of absence four Committee members (Volker Buddensiek, Editor, Susan Carter Holmes, President, Daphne Pritchard, Vice-President and Tim Marshall, Membership Secretary & Seed Bank Secretary).

1. Opening. The Vice-Chairman of the I.E.S, Rikus van Veldhuisen, opens the Annual General Meeting and welcomes the I.E.S. members and I.E.S. officials as present. He excuses himself for the absent Committee members as mentioned above.

2. Chairman's report. Rikus van Veldhuisen, at present Vice-Chairman, recalls to mind that, since the establishment of the I.E.S. in January 2005, this AGM is the first joint general meeting to which all I.E.S. members have been personally invited by (e)mail and through the I.E.S. website. He thanks Alan Butler, who resigned at the very end of 2010 as Chairman of the I.E.S., for his efforts to give the I.E.S. a sound base. Reporting as Vice-Chairman about the past period, he firstly reminds about the decreasing amount of members of the I.E.S. In June 2011 it proved to be that 73 members did not renew their subscription for 2011 and another 36 members not had renewed for 2010 + 2011, but an immediately raised reminder campaign resulted in an increase of membership subscriptions by 31 percent. At this moment, according to the actual files of our Membership Secretary, Tim Marshall, the amount of subscribers, who have paid for 2011, amounts at 195; note that - concerning non-paid activities - the journal Euphorbia World is exchanged with 8 other journals for review, in 7 cases the journal is sent as a complimentary copy.

3. Treasurer's report. Bob Potter, Treasurer of the I.E.S., reports about the financial status of the I.E.S.; he considers the actual finances quite healthy. At the moment we have £ 4349 (€ 4980) in cash, so the financial situation is looking good for the next season, e. g. to have Euphorbia World published for December 2011 + April 2012, provided we can keep the renewals for 2012 coming in.

4. Composition of Officials of the I.E.S. Committee. The actual Vice-Chairman of the I.E.S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, proposes a new composition of the Committee Officials, namely to formally extend the executive Committee with the following positions, viz. the job of Membership Administrator, the job of Vice Chairman and the job of Curator of the Reference Collection. Because the actual I.E.S. articles of association do not provide for these three positions, it is proposed to amend the regulations and to have these mentioned positions formally included in the Constitution. Observe that although de facto the membership records are kept up to date by the name of Membership Secretary, to this day this job was not legally assigned in the regulations. The same applies to the job of Curator of the Reference Collection. The job of Vice Chairman is a new assignment.

Put to the vote, his proposals are unanimously agreed by the meeting.

5. Change of term. The actual Vice-Chairman of the I.E.S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, proposes a change of term, namely Committee Officials sit for a term of 3 years. He comments that although in principle it is proposed to recognize a term of 3 years, to prevent it happens that - after 3 years - in 2014 at least 5 committee member stand for re-election, or not, and the continuity of management becomes endangered if more than one do not stand for re-election, a transition period is proposed. Therefore for the years now to come, the term is spread in 2 or 3 years.

Taken a vote, his proposal is unanimously agreed by the meeting.

6. Election and re-election of Committee Officials. The actual Vice-Chairman of the I.E.S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, proposes an election and re-election of Committee Officers, viz.

(a) to propose Rikus van Veldhuisen for Chairman, eligible by elections in 2014;

(b) to propose Pjotr Lawant for Secretary, provisionally again and again for a term of one year, otherwise eligible by elections in 2014; besides he is proposed to continue his job as Assistant Editor to the Editor (because the job of Librarian is a virtual one for the I.E.S. does not own a library on itself, this position can be crossed off);

- (c) to propose Walter Minuth for Vice Chairman and Website Officer, eligible by elections in 2014;
- (d) to propose Jaap Keijzer for the job of Curator of the Reference Collection, eligible in 2013;
- (e) to recognize the job of Membership Administrator, up to today named Membership Secretary, by re-election to be executed by Tim Marshall, eligible by elections in 2013;
- (f) to re-elect Bob Potter for the job of Treasurer, eligible by elections in 2013;
- (g) to re-elect Volker Buddensiek for the job of Editor, eligible by elections in 2012.

Proceeded to the vote, these proposals are unanimously agreed by the meeting as present.

The new elected Chairman notes that the job of Publicity Officer is vacant; anyone who is interested, is urgently invited to join the I.E.S. Committee for this job.

7. Report of the Editor. By absence of the Editor is put into words by the Asst. Editor, Pjotr Lawant. For the delay in publishing the August 2011 issue he asks to be excused because of a lot of non-expected coincidences. For the upcoming issues contributions are very welcome. When needed, authors are secured for help regarding their contributions; members are invited to contribute ideas for the journal.

8. How to increase the number of subscribers. When asked the public present about how to increase the amount of subscriptions, it is said:

(a) to incite subscribers the renew their subscriptions, this is once and for all a responsibility of the National Representatives. Walter Minuth, National Representative for Germany & Austria, recalls he regularly reminds the subscribers in his region about renewing their subscription, first at the beginning of the year (Alan Butler: “do it already in December!”), and afterwards, when no response has been got, another time; but when no National Representative is at matter, it is a responsibility of the Secretary, he argues;

(b) do not forget the average I.E.S. member is a generalist, who is generally interested in Cactaceae, Crassulaceae and some other succulents, because he is not being a sole “Euphorbieae fanatic”; therefore to attract his attention, perhaps the I.E.S. website is an important medium. Walter Minuth, new appointed Website Officer (see above), proposes to divide the website into two parts, a basic general part and a monthly renewed part with a particular topic of interest to the Euphorbia horticulturist and/or scientist. Also the suggestion has been made to use Facebook as an interactive part for the members of the I.E.S.: members can exchange pictures for identification of plants, tips on cultivation and whatever comes up;

(c) the National Representatives and the Secretary must regularly (preferably monthly) in a concise form be informed by the Membership Administrator and the Treasurer about the state of affairs (read: account / cash), so some initiative can be taken by them to implement reminders.

(d) Walter Minuth rightfully refers to the term ‘renewing’ of the membership of the IES. This leaves the member some freedom for not doing this. It is better to state, Walter Minuth says, “please, pay your membership fee for this year”.

9. Other activities of the I.E.S. About publishing the book “Jatropha” by the late Albert Pritchard, all depends on the finances earned for the year 2012. The printers’ of the journal Euphorbia World offer to print 500 copies of the book for € 3795 (less copies becomes more expensive per copy, e. g. 300 copies amounts to € 3270). The Treasurer, Bob Potter, advises that the Committee has to make a judgment on whether to publish or not, evaluating the costs. Maybe there will have to be some extra financial input to make it happen or we reduce the number of copies or we try to pre-sell the book by subscription. However, either way it needs careful consideration as our top priority will be to ensure that we have sufficient funds to produce the journal Euphorbia World.

10. Any other business; questions. No further comments or questions are raised.

11. Conclusion and closure of the meeting. The Chairman of the I.E.S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, summarizes the decisions of the meeting. All agreed proposals will lead to a revised Constitution, which will be published on the website. At the next AGM in 2012 the Minutes will be presented for approval.

He thanks all present for their contributions and invites them to attend a live demonstration “how to graft euphorbias”.