

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society, held September 12th, 2015

On September 12th, 2015 the 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Euphorbia Society was held on occasion of the Europese Landen Konferentie (ELK) at Blankenberge, Belgium. Present were sixteen I. E. S. members and six Committee Officers (Volker Buddensiek, Thomas Cammaerts, Jaap Keijzer, Pjotr Lawant, Bob Potter and Rikus van Veldhuisen).

1. Opening. The Chairman of the I. E. S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, opens the Annual General Meeting and welcomes the members and officers as present; he apologizes for the absence of Christian Blenn, General Support Officer. He looks back on the Convention held in May 2015 in the Botanical Garden Meise, and thanks Thomas Cammaerts for his great efforts to have the convention such a successful event.

2. Minutes. The Chairman asks the members as present for approval of the Minutes of the preceding AGM of September 13th, 2014, 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 all I. E. S. members have been informed about the invitation to this AGM by Volker Buddensiek by way of the website and also by Bob Potter by a circular letter which was carried out to the members by means of email. 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.

(2) The **Secretary**, Pjotr Lawant, reports that in the course of the year only few people wished to know more about the society; they got informed appropriately. About the exchange of EW against 8 journals of societies in the related field, topics considered of interest have been reviewed by the Secretary in the December 2014 issue and in the December 2015 issue to come.

(3) The **Treasurer**, Bob Potter, regards the actual financial status of the I. E. S. to be in good condition, although attention has still to be paid to the postal costs of forwarding the journal. The number of subscribers consists at this moment of 191 members, a number he considers relatively stable. But all depends on whether we can keep the renewals for 2015 in sufficient numbers, and how to overcome very late payments despite reminders. We also have to worry about some members' requests that their copy of EW clearly went lost in the mail.

(4) The **Editor**, Volker Buddensiek, reports that thanks to our Membership Administrator, Bob Potter, the EW issues were distributed again on time to all our members. The Editor

stresses that members must not hesitate to submit papers about *Euphorbia* species to the Editor; their experiences with the genus are considered valuable. In the interest of the readers, he likes to have on hand an arrangement of different papers for each issue. So feel free to share your contributions with us, he says. Because the actual combination of his duties as Editor and to maintain the website as *Web Officer ad interim* proves to be time-consuming, he does hope the vacant position of Web Officer will be filled as soon as possible. Everyone who is interested in this task is welcomed to join the party.

(5) The **Publicity Officer**, Thomas Cammaerts, warmly recommends the Facebook page of the I. E. S. This year again it proved to be an interesting interactive medium. He is very contented with the positive reactions from various sides he got about the successful convention last May. It even has led to four new subscribers.

(6) The **Curator of the Reference Collection**, Jaap Keijzer, welcomes everyone to visit the collection.

4. Members' reactions to the foregoing reports. In general, members as present are pleased with the activities as performed up to now by the Committee Officers. A couple of members put forward the idea to have all members' email addresses at their disposal to establish a virtual network intended to share individual experiences concerning the cultivation of *Euphorbia* species. In reaction, some Committee members argue that our Facebook site is already a splendid platform to do so. But in second instance, the Chairman promises to have the idea as mentioned above to be discussed within the Committee board. One of the Dutch members says, he is very engaged to probe the Dutch members if they are interested to have regular meetings to share their experiences with euphorbias, if so, he likes to organize such meetings in due course.

5. Management. According to the Constitution, Art. 11, to evaluate the sitting term of the Committee members at particular times, at the moment nothing has to be raised. There is still a vacancy for the executive position of the Hon. Vice-Chairman (cf. Constitution, Art. 10d); regarding the executive position of the Hon. Website Officer (cf. Constitution, Art. 10j). At the request of the Chairman if anyone is willing to be a candidate for these positions, none of the attendants as present responds positively.

6. Comments and/or suggestions in the past year received from members. Nothing about this matter has been received.

7. How to increase the number of subscribers. It proves to be difficult to devise effective measures, it is said. One of the members as present suggest that the organization of workshops may attract the interest of *Euphorbia* lovers, subsequently willing to become a

member; Committee member Thomas Cammaerts cheers the idea, maybe shows also will do, he suggests.

8. Other activities of the I. E. S. Because according to our Treasurer, Bob Potter, the financial situation is promising, a plan for a future publication of a posthumous manuscript about *Jatropha* by the late Albert Pritchard to be produced by the I. E. S is welcomed by the members as present; three members say they are very willing to join Pjotr Lawant in the preparation of the project. Much has yet to be done: updating the contents, searching pictures, getting copyrights, evaluating the English text, etc. In first instance Pjotr Lawant will ask Daphne Pritchard if she still agrees with the project.

Another project of Pjotr Lawant to be fixed in future concerns a survey of *Euphorbia* plant portraits (drawings, woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, watercolours) in the past 2 millenaries. One of the members as present says he surely will be of help.

9. Summary and final conclusion by the Chairman. The members as present all seem to be contented with the subjects as presented and the lively discussions about them; no further comments or questions are raised. The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, is pleased to see that we may look back on a successful annual general meeting. He recalls to mind that there exists the vacancies for the positions of Web Officer and Vice-Chairman. Anyone interested is invited to get in touch with the Chairman.

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 11th AGM of the I. E. S.

The Minutes of the AGM have been composed by the I. E. S. Secretary, Pjotr Lawant