

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society held September 9<sup>h</sup>, 2017.**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the 13<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. Besides seven Committee Officers (Christian Blenn, Volker Buddensiek, Thomas Cammaerts, Jaap Keijzer, Pjotr Lawant, Bob Potter and Rikus van Veldhuisen), the meeting was attended by fourteen members of the Society.

### **1. Opening.**

The Chairman of the I. E. S., Rikus van Veldhuisen, opens the AGM and warmly welcomes the members and officers as present. The Chairman recalls to mind and mourns for the unexpected death of our vice-president Daphne Pritchard on November 3<sup>d</sup> last year; next he summarizes the past activities of the Society, points out the punctual publishing of the three issues of our journal *Euphorbia World* and claims the actual situation of the Society as going well.

### **2. Minutes.**

The Chairman asks the members as present for approval of the minutes of the former AGM of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as published on the I. E. S. website; put to the vote the minutes are unanimously agreed by the members.

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

(1) The **Chairman**, Rikus van Veldhuisen, recalls that all society members have been invited to this AGM by Volker Buddensiek by way of the website and also by Bob Potter by a circular letter carried out by means of email. He informs the members present about keeping on the publication of the journal *Euphorbia World* in three issues per annum.

(2) The **Secretary**, Pjotr Lawant, reports to have informed several interested people about the advantages of an I. E. S. membership; he recalls the exchange of our journal against the publication of the journals of eight other societies in the field, on promise to have EW reviewed in favour of their members vice versa; an account about something or other is published in the December issue to come.

(3) The **Treasurer**, Bob Potter, tells that the actual financial situation of the I. E. S. is in a reasonable condition. The publication of the *Jatropha* book could be financed appropriately. Increasing somewhat the number of pages of *Euphorbia World* is financially possible. At the moment, the actual number of subscribers is 200, including 15 members who get a complimentary issue of EW or exchange their own journal for EW; also 185 subscribers are paying their contribution fee. Bob will still chase those who have not subscribed and hopefully will get them back. About the demand of back issues of the journal *Euphorbia World*, some of the original issues from the very beginning of publication are already out of stock, a solution about that will be sought for. Because of the much increased postal costs regarding the forwarding of the journal, a solution has been found by sending a packet of issues to some national representatives in various countries.

(4) The **Editor**, Volker Buddensiek, reports that beginning with the next December issue, the number of pages of EW will be increased with four pages. He thanks our Membership Administrator, Bob Potter, for distributing our journal *Euphorbia World* to all members on time. Furthermore he invites all members to send manuscripts for future issues.

(5) The **Publicity Officer**, Thomas Cammaerts, informs us about the valuable collection of *Euphorbia* plants in the Botanical Garden Meise (Brussels). He is willing to make the necessary preparations for the organization of a second I. E. S. Convention in the Botanical Garden Meise proposed for the spring of the year 2019.

(6) The **Curator of the Reference Collection**, Jaap Keijzer, welcomes everyone to visit his collection and offers to share with interested people his knowledge about fruitfully cultivating *Euphorbia* species.

(7) The **General Support Officer**, Christian Blenn, recognizes in different social media a growing interest of younger people on *Euphorbia* species and its cultivation.

### **4. Members' reactions about the reports of the I. E. S. management.**

Generally all members present agree with the actual activities of the I.E.S. About the formation of members' meetings on a national basis, our member Piet Huesman promises to start the organization of a first combined Dutch-Belgian meeting in the spring of 2018.

#### **5. Management.**

About the vacancy for the executive position of Hon. Vice-Chairman (cf. Constitution, Art. 10d) our member Piet Huesman says he gladly will fulfill this position. Put to the vote, all members present do agree. He is herewith included to the Board of I. E. S. Officers.

About the vacancy for the executive position of Hon. Website Officer (cf. Constitution, Art. 10j) our member Peter Arthurs is willing to fulfill this position as volunteer. Put to the vote, all members present agree. His first task will be a thorough revising of the pages of our website, for this purpose he will be provided with all necessary materials by our editor Volker Buddensiek, who maintained up to now this task ad interim. The Chairman thanks the members present about their positive approval of the occupation of these two tasks. (Note. For information about the website, Peter Arthurs may be reached by email address [pa\\_ies@arthurs.me.uk](mailto:pa_ies@arthurs.me.uk)).

#### **6. Comments and/or suggestion in the past year received from members.**

Nothing special about this issue was received in the past year.

#### **7. Suggestions how to increase the number of subscribers.**

It is agreed by members present that we have to stay focused on additional activities to yield success in increasing our number of subscribers. Maybe the installation of national meetings (see sub 4) might result in interesting and subsequently winning new members.

#### **8. Other activities of I. E. S.**

The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, proudly announces the realization of the book entitled *Jatropha*, published by the I. E. S., based on a posthumous manuscript by the late Albert Pritchard. It has been edited by Pjotr Lawant and provided with a fair number of plant portraits. The Chairman officially presents the first copy of the book to Pjotr Lawant, who not only thanks the Chairman for his enduring support, but also thanks those I. E. S. members who sent him a lot of nice photographs of *Jatropha* species. Finally, the Chairman likes to hand out on behalf of the Society to every member present on this AGM a complimentary copy of the book. To all people who are acknowledged in the book for their contributions, a complimentary copy will be sent by the Secretary.

#### **9. Summary and final conclusion by the Chairman.**

The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, summarizes that all members present seem to be content with the actual activities of the I. E. S. No further comments or questions have been raised. The Chairman is pleased to see that we may look back on a successful AGM and is looking forward to a second Convention in Meise, Belgium, in spring 2019, thanking Thomas Cammaerts for being in charge again for the organization of this event. On the next AGM on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, progress about the convention will be evaluated.

#### **10. Closure of the AGM.**

The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen thanks everyone present for their attendance and for their contributions. He finally closes the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM of the I. E. S.