

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society, September 7th, 2019.

On September 7th, 2018 the 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Euphorbia Society was held on occasion of the Europese Landen Konferentie (ELK) at Blankenberge, Belgium. Present were 18 I. E. S. members, one guest, and five Committee Officers (Rikus van Veldhuisen, Chairman; Piet Huesman, Vice-Chairman; Volker Buddensiek, Editor, Thomas Cammaerts, Publicity Officer and Jaap Keijzer, Curator of the Reference Collection.

The Minutes are gratefully composed by I. E. S. member Detlef Schnabel.

Apologies for absence were noted from Peter Arthurs, Website Administrator, Christian Blenn, General Support Officer, Pjotr Lawant, Secretary & Assistant Editor and Bob Potter, Treasurer and Membership Administrator.

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 for approval of the Minutes of the 14th AGM of September 8th, 2018, as displayed on the website of the I.E.S.; put to the vote the Minutes are unanimously adopted by the members present, no questions are raised.

3. Annual Report of the Committee.

(1) Chairman's report. The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, informs the members present that Jaap Keijzer will resign from his position as Curator of the Reference Collection. The new reference collection will be housed at the Botanic Garden Meise, curated by Thomas Cammaerts. According to the Chairman, currently the I.E.S. has about 200 members.

(2) Publicity Officer's report. The Publicity Officer, Thomas Cammaerts, recalls the International Convention held on 18th & 19th of May 2019 at the Botanic Garden Meise summing up that the event was a full success, both for the attendees and the organisers. He also received positive feedback from a well-known scientist, one of the speakers at the Convention. The Chairman says that the Convention made a deficit of some € 2,000, but this was well-invested money, especially regarding the promotion of the I.E.S.; the I.E.S. is financially sound, with substantial reserves.

(3) Editor's report. The Editor, Volker Buddensiek, reports that the total number of pages of Euphorbia World was increased substantially. Furthermore, full-page images now can be used. He stresses that all members are invited to provide papers. The Editor puts up for discussion whether a larger number of scientific articles shall be published in Euphorbia World or even an issue with exclusively scientific papers. The members present prefer issues of Euphorbia World containing a balanced ratio between scientific and non-scientific articles.

4. Report of the International Convention at the Botanic Garden Meise.

The Chairman points to the Publicity Officer's report already made, see above.

5. Appointment of a new Vice-Chairman, a new Assistant Publicity Officer and an honourable mention of the late Vice-President.

(1.) The Chairman proposes to nominate Thomas Cammaerts as Vice-Chairman in combination with his function as Publicity Officer.

Resolution 1: Thomas Cammaerts is unanimously accepted as Vice-Chairman in combination with his function as Publicity Officer by the members present.

(2.) The Chairman proposes to nominate Piet Huesman as Assistant Publicity Officer instead of Vice-Chairman.

Resolution 2: Piet Huesman is unanimously accepted as Assistant Publicity Officer instead of Vice-Chairman by the members present.

(3.) The Chairman puts the honourable mention of the late Hon. Vice-President Daphne Pritchard up for discussion.

Resolution 3: The members present decide to launch, as a substitute for the honourable mention, an annual "Daphne Pritchard Award" for the best article published in Euphorbia World.

6. Comments and/or questions of members referring to the foregoing reports.

No comments and/or questions were raised.

7. Website.

In absence of the Website Administrator, Peter Arthurs, the Editor, Volker Buddensiek, reports that the I.E.S. website is in the process of being reconstructed.

8. Comments or questions received from members in the course of the past year.

Question: Is there a lifetime membership option? Answer: so far, there is not such an option. But a member present proposes to establish a 5-year membership option. Action: The Chairman will discuss the proposal of establishing a 5-year membership option with the Treasurer & Membership Administrator, Bob Potter.

9. Suggestions from the members present how to increase the number of subscribers.

(1.) The Chairman reports that there is a high decrease in membership in the U.S.A.

Currently, there are only five members in the U.S.A. Action: The members present agree that there is, on grounds of age, an urgent need for finding a new National Representative.

(2.) The Chairman reports that there is also a significant decrease in membership in the UK. The members present propose to distribute information about the benefits of being a member of the I.E.S. The members present also suggest to provide a sponsorship to plant events in the UK.

10. Summary and final conclusions.

The Chairman summarises the contents of the meeting. He concludes that future Conventions of the I.E.S. may also take place in other places than in Meise.

11. Closure of the AGM.

The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, thanks everyone present for their attendance and for their contributions, and declares the 15th AGM of the I. E. S. closed.