



**Minutes of the Meeting of the EFAC Board
8th April 2016
Park Inn Hotel, Leuven, Belgium**

Start: 13.30
End: 17.30

Participants:

Jan Breembroek, VLB, The Netherlands (President)
Hans- Josef Hartmann, HLBS, Germany (Secretary)
Dirk Coucke, DLV, Belgium
Loic Le Menn, CNCER, France
Olivier Taisne, CER Somme, France
Martin Uriarte, Lorra/Lursail, Bask Country

Not present:

Helle Risdal, Agricultural Academy, Denmark
Inge Kjeldsen, Landbo Limfjord, Denmark
Dhr. Fou-Khan Tsang, VLB, The Netherlands

Agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Introduction of new Members of the Board
3. Announcements
4. Proposals for a business plan for EFAC
5. Developing a communication strategy for the EFAC Board and the EFAC Working Groups
6. Re-launch of the EFAC web site
7. Internal affairs:
 - 7.1 Personal engagements/tasks
 - 7.2 Changes of the EFAC Statutes
 - 7.3 Election of a new President and Vice-President
 - 7.4 Election of a Treasurer

7.5 Election of a Secretary
7.6 Budget for 2016

8. Report on the recent activities of the EFAC Tax Committee
9. Next Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

The EFAC Secretary, Hans- Josef Hartmann, welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting. He referred to the last Board Meeting and to the presented discussion papers that have been circulated to prepare the Meeting.

The presented Agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Introduction of new Members of the Board

Olivier Taisne, CER Somme, France was welcomed as new Member of the Board. He introduced himself and his working field as director of the CER consulting office in Amiens, Departement Somme. Dhr. Fou- Khan Tsang, VLB, The Netherlands was named to take part in the Board in behalf of VLB but his absence was excused for the present meeting. Also Helle Risdal and Inge Kjelsen from Denmark were announced to be Member or Observer to the EFAC Board. Details will be fixed with the Danish representatives until next meeting.

The Board welcomed Olivier Taisne as new Member to the Board and as well welcomed the coming new Members from VLB and from Denmark.

A general introduction of all present Board Members followed giving an actual view on the different operation fields of consulting farms and rural businesses in the Member offices. The consulting structures of the Members organisations have been described.

3. Announcements

A discussion started on the representation of LRF Konsult, Sweden in the EFAC Board. LRF Konsult was present as active EFAC Member from 1997 until 2007. Since then LRF Konsult was registered as Observer. No actual participation of representatives was noticed since 2007.

The Board concluded to ask LRF Konsult to verify its status in connection with EFAC.

It was discussed the progress of EFAC enlargement to other agricultural consulting entities in Europe. Martin Uriarte revised to a previous contact meeting with representatives of ACA (Agricultural Consulting Agency) from Ireland. A developing exchange was not successful yet due to following personal changes.

The Board concluded to resume a contact to ACA representatives to discuss more closely a possible Membership or contribution to exchange consulting expertise. Hans-Josef Hartmann will contact the ACA president Laura Johnston in this respect.

Due to the different structures of organising agricultural consulting in Italy and in the East European Member States it was not possible yet to create professional exchange. First links to Scientific Institutes in Poland were not successful to establish a solid contact for a

partnership. In Italy there is no consulting structure established on a national level. All agricultural consulting known is based on individual or regional offices.

The Board concluded to identify possible institutions in East European Member States and interested consulting experts in Italy and other Member States for a possible cooperation with EFAC.

4. Proposals for a business plan for EFAC

The Secretary reported about previous preparatory discussions on EFAC's strategy and the establishing of a solid business plan:

- 14th November 2014 with VLB in Nieuwegein, The Netherlands (participants: Dhr. Fou-Khan Tsang, Jan Breembroek, Bert van den Kerkhof from the EFAC Tax Committee and Hans- Josef Hartmann)
- 16th April 2015 with CNCER in Paris, France (participants: Loic Le Menn, Hans- Josef Hartmann)

All EFAC Members considered the values of cooperation on a European level and the fortunes of EFAC. For the time being a continuous work flow is focused on the EFAC Tax Committee that is assembling regular for 2 or 3 meetings per year. A series of Tax surveys have been presented to the Board and are published in the EFAC and the Members web sites. Hans-Josef Hartmann is in charge to report on the Tax Committee's activities.

The Board recognised the value of this work and encouraged the Tax Committee to continue its work. An overview on the items of discussion is requested to be presented to the Board in the General Assembly Meeting to be integrated into the annual business plan.

The Board concluded to establish new EFAC working groups on essential issues and operation fields of consulting and to re- establish the EFAC Energy Group that ended its activities in 2012 caused by a change of chairmanship.

Dirk Coucke proposed to establish a "Market Advisory Service" to hedge prices on grain, pigs and milk as major farm market items. He referred that it will be of value for farmers to estimate future prices and price developments and margins. Market information could be used to develop models on production markets on actual data base or for risk management services for farmers. Electronic data exchange is considered as essential for the collecting of day to day information.

The Board concluded to launch a "Market Advisory Service"- project. Dirk Coucke is requested to take the chair of this project and to outline a structure as a starting point to establish a work flow. It was agreed to take the prices of 4 items into account at the beginning: the prices of milk, potatoes, pigs and eggs. The access to actual statistic data is regarded as essential to be used for consulting. Welcome is also to revise to a reliable source of data that may be helpful to establish a data line for the Service.

The Board concluded as well to re- launch the work of the „Energy Group“. Martin Uriarte will take the initiative to invite the previous Members of this Group to continue its work as "Sustainable Energy Group" under the chair of Carlos Mas, from Lorra, Bask Country.

The former registered Members named to take part in the new Group are:

Carlos Mas, Lorra, Bask Country: cmas@lorra.eus
Filip Raymaekers, DLV, Belgium: fr@dlv.be
Marc Varchavsky, CER France: mvarchavsky@cernet.fr

Members from Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands need to be nominated for the new “Sustainable Energy Group” as soon as possible. Dirk Coucke will take care to collect the contact addresses that will be distributed for internal use and access for the EFAC Members.

Hans-Josef Hartmann informed the Board about the approach of Karl Brandt from Germany, who’s initiative is to create “Mediation” as a specific service for consultants to accompany more closely the personal needs of the clients in connection with negotiations and as a conflict solving tool. Mutual contact has been established already with CER France to discuss the opportunities of this service.

The Board recognized this item as a developing service that may be of significant importance in the future. The Board concluded that EFAC will accompany this initiative but will first take advantage of the results of a proposed meeting of Karl Brandt with CER France representatives before further decisions will be taken. Karl Brandt is requested to introduce a structure for an approach to identify “Mediation” as a field of consulting and to start exchange of expertise.

5. Developing a communication strategy for the EFAC Board and the EFAC Working Groups

Dirk Coucke explained the fortunes using the new communication panel of “Slack” offering various communication links for contact teams. The access to the panel and its use was explained to the Board.

The Board adopted the new communication panel and decided to establish EFAC contact teams to use this panel as internal web- based contact channel. Dirk Coucke was assigned to administer this new communication tool. All Members are requested to provide Dirk Coucke with the actual e- mail addresses to establish useful EFAC contact teams.

Dirk Coucke will collect the contact addresses of the Members of the new established “Sustainable Energy Group” being constituted as a “Slack” contact team. The access code for registration is: efac.slack.com.

6. Re-launch of the EFAC web site

Martin Uriarte described the actual stage of the hosting conditions. The HAZI Foundation, an enterprise of Lursail is actually in charge to maintain and administer the EFAC web site. The annual maintenance costs without modifications or improvements or software upgrades is about 900.00 € covered by Lorra/Lursail in behalf of EFAC. In addition the costs to continue the web certificate for the EFAC web site is 400.00 € every second year. A permanent certification can be obtained optional for 1,200.00 € in total.

The Board is requested to take a decision on the continuation conditions for the EFAC web site. The HAZI Foundation is willing to continue the maintenance of the EFAC web site and its administration.

The Board decided unanimously to continue the EFAC web site under the administration of the HAZI Foundation and to take all expenses of maintenance on the account of EFAC. It was decided further to continue the EFAC web certificate in a 2 years interval. The invoice for the annual maintenance and the certification costs is requested to address to EFAC’s account.

The Board requested to update all Members information on the EFAC web site until 15th May 2016. The reports should be distributed on the new communication tool “Slack”.

7. Internal affairs:

7.1 Personal engagements/tasks

Resuming the Board decisions the following tasks have been agreed:

1. Administration of “Slack”: Dirk Coucke
2. Establishing the EFAC “Sustainable Energy” Group: Martin Uriarte (Chairman: Carlos Mas)
3. Collecting addresses to constitute the “Sustainable Energy” contact team (Dirk Coucke)
4. Sending contact of experts on sustainable energy to Dirk Coucke: Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands
5. Contact to ACA/Ireland: Hans- Josef Hartmann
6. Verification of the Membership of LRF Konsult/Sweden: Hans- Josef Hartmann
7. Report on the EFAC Tax Committee: Hans- Josef Hartmann
8. Establishing of the “Market Advisory Service”: Dirk Coucke (Chairman)
9. Contacting Karl Brandt to verify the “Mediation Service” project: Hans- Josef Hartmann
10. Coordinating the administration and re- launching of the EFAC web site: Martin Uriarte
11. Updated Member information for the EFAC web site: all reporting until 15th May 2016 on “Slack”

7.2 Changes of the EFAC Statutes

Considering that EFAC is a developing association of European Agricultural Experts not representing all Member States for the time being the Board concluded to decide the following changes of the present EFAC Statutes:

1. Composition of the Executive Board

Art. 18: Composition

The Executive Board shall comprise of a minimum of three Members.

(Instead of present version: “The Executive Board shall comprise between nine and twelve Members. ...)

2. Election

Art. 19: Election

Members of the Executive Board are elected by the general meeting for a maximum period of 4 years.

(Instead of present version: “Members of the Executive Board are elected by general meeting for a maximum period of 2 years.)

The mentioned changes have been adopted unanimously.

7.3 Election of a new President and Vice- President

The Board voted Jan Breembroek unanimously as President and Martin Uriarte as Vice-President for a term of 4 years.

7.4 Election of a Treasurer

The Board voted Dirk Coucke unanimously as Treasurer for a term of 4 years.

7.5 Election of a Secretary

The Board voted Hans- Josef Hartmann unanimously as Secretary for a term of 4 years.

7.6 Budget 2016

Dirk Coucke reported about the actual accounts and presented the proposed Budget 2016.

The Budget 2016 for the Association was adopted unanimously.

8. Report on the recent activities of the EFAC Tax Committee

Hans- Josef Hartmann reported about the current projects and surveys of the EFAC Tax Committee and about the subjects of the last meeting held in Copenhagen on 11th/12th February 2016.

The Board discussed the report and adopted it.

The next Board meeting was concluded to take place on

Friday, 18th November 2016 in Leuven/Belgium.

The Board members are requested to arrive already on Thursday, 17th November 2016 at Park Inn Hotel for a joint dinner.

Berlin, 25th April 2016

Jan Breembroek
(President)

Hans- Josef Hartmann
(Secretary)