

MINUTES

of the Second General Assembly of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe held on 17 October 2011

Venue: 110, Str. Grenoble, Chisinau, Moldova
Persons present: see in the attached list of participants

Chair of the Meeting: Dr. Laszlo Varadi, president
Rapporteur: Peter Lengyel, general secretary
Verifier of the Minutes: Dr. Vitaliy Bekh, IF NAASU
Verifier of the Minutes: Dr. Martin Flajshans, USB FFPW

OPENING

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held at 10 am, 17 October 2011, in the Blue Hall of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The participants were first greeted by Prof. Gheorghe Duca, the President of the Academy, who informed the participants that Moldova has just recently become an associated country in FP7, and he considered both that fact and the present event a recognition of Moldovan science. The next speaker was Dr. Laszlo Varadi, President of NACEE, who made a brief overview of the development of NACEE and thanked the Moldovan hosts for the excellent organization. Prof. Theodor Furdui, Vice-President of the Academy, praised the excellent results of Moldovan research in general, and fisheries science in particular. Mr. Vitalie Ceban, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, conveyed the best regards of the Ministry and expressed his delight that such an important event took place on Moldovan soil. Prof. Ion Toderas, Director of the Institute of Zoology, remembered the most outstanding Moldovan fisheries and aquaculture research scientists and expressed his conviction that the researchers of today, whose results are widely known even abroad, also promote the international recognition of the country's fisheries science. Finally, the representatives of the host organizations, Dr. Elena Zubcov (Institute of Zoology) and Dr. Galina Curcubet (Acvacultura-Moldova) greeted the participants and informed them on the most important technical details regarding the conference.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The President declared that the General Assembly was convened according to the statutory requirements. Of the 12 founding members included in the Statutes, 9 are present, and therefore, the General Assembly is valid. Then he presented the list of agenda points, distributed to the participants in advance:

Agenda points

1. Membership issues
2. Annual Report
3. Financial Report
4. Discussing the main principles of operation of the Technical Advisory Committee
5. Election of the members of the Technical Advisory Committee

6. Presenting the NATO research support activities
7. Actual project opportunities
8. Discussion of cooperation possibilities with FAO and other regional networks
9. Discussion and adoption of the next year's action plan of NACEE
10. Discussion and adoption of the next year's budget of NACEE
11. Any other matters

The agenda points were unanimously accepted by the 9 founding members.

Agenda Point 1

By request of the President, the General Secretary informed the participants on the status of membership of NACEE. Currently, the members entitled to vote are the 12 founding members as listed in the Statutes, whereof 9 are currently present. As per the Executive Board Resolution No. 1/2011 (IV.15), the other former members were offered a grace period until the Second General Assembly, in which they were still considered NACEE members and could state their intention to remain so. Twelve institutions and one individual used this opportunity, thus increasing the membership of NACEE to 25. To confirm their membership, the President put forward the following proposed resolution, and asked the 9 members currently entitled to vote to accept it:

Resolution of the GA No. 1/2011. (X.17.)

The founding members of NACEE approve of the Executive Board Resolution No. 1/2011 (IV.15), which gave an opportunity to former NACEE members to renew their membership until the Second General Assembly. They accept the membership renewal of the following institutions and one individual:

1. Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus;
2. University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters;
3. Latvian Association of Crayfish and Fish Farmers;
4. Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova;
5. Russian Federal Research Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography;
6. Astrakhan State Technical University;
7. Astrakhan State University;
8. Federal Center for Fish Genetics and Selection;
9. State Research Institute for Lake and River Fisheries;
10. State Research and Production Center for Fisheries;
11. Federal Research Institute of Freshwater Fisheries;
12. Ukrainian State Designing Institute for Fisheries and Fishery Industry;
13. Yuriy Pilipenko.

These members will be considered founding members, similarly to those present at the Founding General Assembly. At the same time, the General Assembly declares that members who have not renewed their membership until this date, are now stripped of their NACEE membership and can join NACEE at a later date, should they wish so, as new members.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 9 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions. He, therefore, confirmed that the listed

members are now members of NACEE. From now on, they have a right to vote, which raises the number of the currently present voting members to 17.

Agenda Point 2

The President presented the annual report of the Executive Board of NACEE, including information on the meetings of the Executive Board, along with resolutions taken during these meetings. Thereafter, the President put forward the following proposed resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 2/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly accepts the presented report and approves of the actions taken by the Executive Board during the year 2010/2011.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 17 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Resolution of the GA No. 3/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly approves of the Executive Board Resolution No. 7/2011. (X.6.) and agrees to move the future general assemblies to the first half of the year.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 16 aye votes, 1 nay vote and no abstentions.

Resolution of the GA No. 4/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly approves of the Executive Board Resolution No. 8/2011. (X.6.) and agrees with the proposed principles of the election of the Technical Advisory Committee.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 17 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 3

The President informed the General Assembly that, by law, the financial report could not actually be adopted now, as the fiscal year has not yet been closed. The law requires adoption of the financial report within 150 days of the closure of the fiscal year, which means that it should be adopted by the next General Assembly, which, for this very reason, should be held in the first half of the next year. Thereafter, the President presented the actually available information on the financial situation of NACEE, and put forward the following proposed resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 5/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly approves of the financial operations taken by the Executive Board to the moment and agrees to postpone the official approval of the Financial Report until the first half of the year 2012.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 17 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 6

By request of the local hosts, the President agreed to discuss Agenda Point 6 earlier than planned initially. At his invitation, Mr. Sergiu Porcescu, Head of the Department for European Integration and International Cooperation of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, made a presentation to the General Assembly on the international cooperation scene in Moldova and the research support opportunities offered by the NATO SPS Programme.

Agenda Point 4

By request of the President, the General Secretary informed the participants that the Executive Board had prepared an initial draft of the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Advisory Committee. He stressed that, by Statute, these documents should be developed by the Technical Advisory Committee itself and adopted by the General Assembly only afterwards. Therefore, no plenary discussion of these materials would be held now. They will be distributed to the elected members of the TAC, who will discuss and finalize them the next day, on their first meeting. The General Secretary emphasized that the prepared documents should by no means be considered as any kind of suggestion on behalf of the Executive Board. They are only a discussion material to facilitate the regulatory work of the TAC, and thus, they can be freely modified by the TAC members, as long as they remain in accord with the Statutes.

The General Secretary also reminded the participants that the rules of electing TAC members were set by the NACEE Statutes and the Executive Board Resolution No. 8/2011 (X.06), and approved by the GA Resolution No. 4/2011. (X.17.). However, as the planned number of TAC members was to be between 10 and 15, and the number of the present participants eligible under the rules set in the above resolutions was 15, he proposed to follow a simplified procedure, wherein the Executive Board proposes the entire slate of 15 TAC members as a whole, and the General Assembly openly votes for or against the proposed slate.

With the arrival of Mr. Yuriy Pilipenko, the number of voting members increased to 18 at this time. Thus, the proposal was accepted with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 5

By request of the President, the General Secretary presented the list of persons nominated by the Executive Board to form the Technical Advisory Committee.

The following persons were nominated:

- Aidas Adomaitis;
- Galina Curcubet;
- Martin Flajshans;
- Ihor Hrytsynyak;
- Zsigmond Jeney;
- Igor Khovanskiy;
- Vladimir Kostousov;
- Valeriy Krupkin;
- Aleksandr Litvinenko;
- Ekaterina Mikodina;
- Yuriy Pilipenko;
- Sergey Ponomarev;
- Lidiya Vasilyeva;
- Boguslaw Zdanowski;
- Elena Zubcov.

Two of the participants indicated that they could not take the assignment and proposed other representatives of their institutions in their stead: Mr. Ryszard Kolman instead of Mr. Zdanowski and Mr. Viktor Golod instead of Mr. Krupkin. The modified slate was put to vote.

After the vote, the President summarized the results in the following resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 6/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly has elected the following persons as members of the Technical Advisory Committee:

- Aidas Adomaitis;
- Galina Curcubet;
- Martin Flajshans;
- Ihor Hrytsynyak;
- Zsigmond Jeney;
- Igor Khovanskiy;
- Vladimir Kostousov;
- Viktor Golod;
- Aleksandr Litvinenko;
- Ekaterina Mikodina;
- Yuriy Pilipenko;
- Sergey Ponomarev;
- Lidiya Vasilyeva;
- Ryszard Kolman;
- Elena Zubcov,

for a period of five years with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 7

By request of the President, the Vice-President informed the General Assembly on the actually running EU projects with the involvement of NACEE and on upcoming project calls and project opportunities. He particularly stressed the possible (and expected) involvement of NACEE members in the AQUAEXCEL project and requested the participants to fill and return to the Executive Board the distributed infrastructure fact sheets during the day.

The President put forward the following proposed resolution to the General Assembly:

Resolution of the GA No. 7/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly of NACEE takes note of the EU project opportunities presented and will consider them during the development of its action plan and research agenda. The General Assembly also approves of the involvement of NACEE as a legal body in the planned AQUAINNOVA and „new EXINLAND” projects, and encourages its members to get involved in the AQUAEXCEL project in order to improve their technical collaboration with EU research institutions.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 8

By request of the President, the General Secretary informed the participants on planned FAO initiatives with probable NACEE involvement aiming at (1) the improvement of collaboration with other regional networks and (2) evaluation of the role of carps in future aquaculture development.

Thereafter, the President gave the floor to Mr. Xiaowei Zhou (FAO), who made a presentation on the actual problems of statistical data collection in the CEE region and the possible role of NACEE in improving the situation. The General Assembly discussed the possible involvement of NACEE and the possible finances that could be obtained for this purpose. Mr. Thomas Moth-Poulsen (FAO) informed the participants on the FAO TCP programmes, which could assist the development of a complex regional project with the improvement of statistical data collection as one of its components.

After the discussion, the President put forward the following proposed resolution to the General Assembly:

Resolution of the GA No. 8/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly of NACEE supports the involvement of NACEE as an independent legal body and its separate members in the presented FAO initiatives and requests the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Committee to work towards this objective. The General Assembly also takes note of the problems of statistical data collection in the CEE region and expresses its commitment to working closely with the FAO Statistics Office to improve the situation.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 9

The President presented the proposed action plan of NACEE for the next year. During its discussion, the following proposals and suggestions were made:

- Several members expressed their interest in participating in AQUA 2012 and requested the Executive Board to send them more detailed information on deadlines and conditions.
- Mr. Litvinenko reminded the participants that the Azov Fisheries Research Institute had offered to host a thematic conference in Rostov in 2013.
- The Hungarian members of NACEE offered to host the General Assembly in 2012; the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania made an offer for the 2013 General Assembly, and the University of South Bohemia in České Budejovice, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters, for 2014.
- The Astrakhan State Technical University offered to organize the next year's Young Researchers' Conference in Rostov, jointly with a similar Russian event. The President added that he would discuss the possible involvement of AquaTT and the EAS Student Group in the YRC.

After the General Assembly had discussed the proposal, the President put forward the following proposed resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 9/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly adopts the next year's action plan of NACEE with the suggested additions and modifications.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 10

Before discussing the next year's budget, the President informed the participants that two more organizations and an individual indicated their intention to join NACEE during the day:

- a previous NACEE member, the State Polar Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia;
- Aquatir Ltd., Tiraspol, Moldova (Transnistria);
- Ms. Olga Dyudyaeva, representing the Kherson Regional Public Organization „Recovery of the Dnieper”, but joining as an individual member.

After the present candidates introduced themselves and the General Assembly discussed their applications, the President put forward the following resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 11/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly of NACEE accepts the membership applications of the State Polar Academy, Aquatir Ltd. and Ms. Olga Dyudyaeva, and admits them as NACEE members.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions, which increased the number of NACEE members to 28 and the number of the present voting members to 20.

After the vote, the General Secretary presented the planned budget for the year 2012, including already the new members into the calculations. Thereafter, the President put forward the following resolution:

Resolution of the GA No. 10/2011. (X.17.)

The General Assembly approves the budget of NACEE for the year 2012 with a planned income of 10,800 EUR and a planned expense of 10,800 EUR. An annual operational expense of 6,250 EUR is envisaged, leaving 4,550 EUR for the implementation of the adopted action plan.

The President declared that the members of the General Assembly adopted the Resolution with 20 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

Agenda Point 11

The President gave the floor to Mr. Yuriy Pilipenko, who proposed to start the preparation and publication of joint coursebooks for use in NACEE countries. He introduced Mr. Dmitriy Grin from the Oldi-Plus Publishing House, who expressed his commitment to this project. The President suggested Mr. Pilipenko and Mr. Grin to prepare a short project idea and submit it to the Executive Board, which then will forward it to all potential NACEE partners.

Upon discussing all agenda points and adopting resolutions on them, the President closed the plenary part of the Second General Assembly.

Date: Chisinau, 17 October 2011