

## **MINUTES**

### **of the Fourth General Assembly Meeting of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe held on 15 May 2013**

Venue: Hotel Panorama, Vilnius, Lithuania

Persons present: see the attached list of participants (Annex 1)

Moderator: Dr. László Váradi, president

Rapporteur: Péter Lengyel, general secretary

Verifier: Aidan Adomaitis

Verifier: Vitalij Bekh

#### ***OPENING CEREMONY***

The president greeted the participants. After him, Mr. Mindaugas Kuklierius, vice-minister of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, delivered his opening address, highlighting the fisheries traditions and active fisheries development of the host country and expressing his hope that the participants would receive detailed information on the results of the Lithuanian fisheries sector in the next days. The participants were then greeted by Mr. Vytautas Grusauskas, director of the host institution, who stressed the importance of such regular professional meetings in generating new ideas and solutions. Next, the president informed the participants on the upcoming programme. In the morning, before the plenary session, a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will take place with the objective of developing the research agenda of NACEE. The meeting will be closed, only TAC members are expected to participate. The plenary session of the General Assembly (GA) will take place after the TAC meeting and the lunch.

#### ***MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The minutes of the TAC meeting are attached in Annex 2 of these minutes.

#### ***MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING***

Before the official part of the programme, Mr. Ihor Hrytsynyak formally presented Mr. Laszlo Váradi with a diploma certifying his status as a foreign member of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine (NAASU), while the president, on behalf of NACEE, congratulated Mr. Hrytsynyak on his recent NAASU membership and Mr. Vitaliy Bekh on his Doctor of Sciences degree.

Moving on to the official programme, the president declared that the General Assembly Meeting was convened according to the legal requirements. Eighteen of the 28 voting members of NACEE are present, and thus, the General Assembly is valid. The General Assembly follows the below agenda, sent in advance to all members:

## **Agenda points**

1. Membership issues
2. Adoption of the annual report of the Executive Board
3. Adoption of the financial report and „public benefit report” of the Executive Board
4. Discussing the proposed work programme of TAC
5. Discussion of possible cooperation with FAO
6. Presenting the AQUAEXCEL project
7. Discussion of the next year’s tasks
8. Discussion and adoption of the next year’s budget of NACEE
9. Any other matters

## **Agenda Point 1**

The general secretary informed the participants on the following new membership applications:

- Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Minsk, Belarus;
- Kaliningrad State Technical University, Kaliningrad, Russia;
- „Academician S. T. Artyushchik” Dnieper Production and Experimental Sturgeon Hatchery, Dniprovske, Ukraine;
- Oleksiy Khudy, Chernivtsi, Ukraine (individual membership).

After the presentation of the participants and questions from the floor, the general secretary requested the voting members to vote on the admission of the four candidates one by one. The General Assembly approved the admission of all members with 18 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions. The results of the vote were summarized by the general secretary in the following resolution:

### ***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 1/2013. (V.15.)***

The NACEE General Assembly unanimously approve the admission of the following candidates to NACEE:

- Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Minsk, Belarus;
- Kaliningrad State Technical University, Kaliningrad, Russia;
- „Academician S. T. Artyushchik” Dnieper Production and Experimental Sturgeon Hatchery, Dniprovske, Ukraine;
- Oleksiy Khudy, Chernivtsi, Ukraine (individual membership).

Based on this decision, the number of NACEE members and the present voting members increases to 34 and 22, respectively.

The general secretary proposed to exclude two non-paying members, the Russian State Research Institute for Lake and River Fisheries (GosNIORH) and the Ukrainian State Institute for Planning Fishery and Fish Industry Enterprises (Ukrribproekt). During the discussion on the proposal, Mr. Vitaliy Bekh said that the Institute of Fisheries of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine regularly informs Ukrribproekt on NACEE-related news, and therefore, the non-payment and non-attendance can be attributed to the lack of interest. Mr. Viktor Golod informed the participants that Mr. Dmitriy Ivanov, the former director of GosNIORH, was replaced. He proposed to inform the new director on the obligations related

to the institute's membership before excluding it. The president answered that GosNIORH had already received several notices, which were left without answer. He agreed to inform the new director, but suggested to include a deadline for fulfilling the obligations toward NACEE in the letter. Exclusion should automatically come into force if the deadline is not met. After the discussion, the general secretary put the two exclusion proposals to vote separately. The General Assembly approved the exclusion of Ukrybproekt with 21 aye votes, no nay votes and one abstention, while the proposal on immediate exclusion of GosNIORH did not receive support (no aye votes, 14 nay votes, 8 abstentions). The general secretary summarized the results of the vote in the following resolution:

***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 2/2013. (V.15.)***

The NACEE General Assembly approves the exclusion of the Ukrainian State Institute for Planning Fishery and Fish Industry Enterprises (Ukrybproekt) from NACEE. The Executive Board will inform the director of GosNIORH on his institution's obligations to NACEE, leaving a one-month deadline for compliance. If the institute fails to do so, its membership will be terminated automatically.

The president declares that the current membership of NACEE changes to 33 with the approved changes.

**Agenda Point 2**

After presenting the annual report of the NACEE Executive Board, the president put forward the following proposed resolution:

***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 3/2013. (V.15.)***

The General Assembly accepts the presented annual report and approves the actions taken by the Executive Board in the 2012/2013 period.

The president declared that the members of the General Assembly accepted the resolution with 22 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

**Agenda Point 3**

After presenting the financial report and the public benefit report of NACEE, the president put forward the following proposed resolutions:

***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 4/2013. (V.15.)***

The General Assembly accepts the 2012 financial report of the NACEE Executive Board.

The president declared that the members of the General Assembly accepted the resolution with 22 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 5/2013. (V.15.)***

The General Assembly accepts the 2012 public benefit report of NACEE.

The president declared that the members of the General Assembly accepted the resolution with 22 aye votes, no nay votes and no abstentions.

#### **Agenda Point 4**

By request of the president, Mr. Ryszard Kolman, the chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), reported that the objective of the morning session of TAC was to finalize the next year's research agenda of NACEE. He briefly summarized the results of the TAC meeting. As the modified research agenda is not yet available, the general secretary will finalize it within two weeks and send it to all NACEE members for comments. Ms. Lidiya Vasilyeva proposed that TAC should make recommendations in the future on the topics of workshops held in conjunction with the GA Meetings, taking into consideration the research agenda and the needs of the members. Several members opposed the idea on the grounds that determination of the workshop topic should be the responsibility of the organizer, as it largely depends on local specificities and the subject of the projects providing financial background to these events. Mr. Kolman agreed that these aspects should be strongly considered, but he did not exclude the possibility that TAC and the Executive Board could jointly propose the topic of the professional workshop to be held if the organizer does not have any other aspects to consider.

#### **Agenda Point 5**

By request of the president, Mr. Jiansan Jia (FAO) provided information on FAO initiatives for regional cooperation. He said that as the development of regional cooperation is an important priority of the FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI), FAO actively supports the establishment of regional aquaculture organizations and networks. He reported the current organization process of the networks of Pacific countries and the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and informed the participants on the meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture to be held in Moscow in October 2013, which would have a session on the strengthening of regional cooperation, wherein NACEE is expected to participate.

Ms. Éva Kovács, representing the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, stressed that, due to the highly diverse character of the region, FAO strongly counted on NACEE's assistance, especially in attracting the attention of donor organization and EU to the region. In his answer, the president emphasized that FAO had played a crucial role in the establishment of NACEE and continued to be its core partner. Even now, a TCPf project proposal prepared with FAO assistance is under evaluation. The project partners are Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, while the coordinator is NACEE.

Mr. Vitaliy Bekh announced that, if the TCPf proposal receives support, the Institute of Fisheries of NAASU is ready to hold the project workshop in Transcaucasia. He suggested to invite other NACEE members in addition to the three participating countries. The general secretary commented that, although the project does not exclude the inviting of additional experts, it does not finance them, and therefore, this would require additional funding.

#### **Agenda Point 6**

By request of the president, Mr. Zsigmond Jeney, the vice-president of NACEE, provided information on the AQUAREDPOT project coordinated by HAKI, wherein 5 postdoctoral

positions had been announced very recently. Young researchers from NACEE countries can apply as well. Mr. Jeney also informed the General Assembly on the AQUAEXCEL project wherein HAKI is involved. Under one of the project's components, researchers of other countries can apply for using the infrastructure of HAKI (or other institutions) in their research.

Mr. Otomar Linhart added that the AQUAEXCEL site presents the infrastructures offered by the project participants. He also considered it important to mention that the project covered all costs of the successful applicants, including travel, accommodation and the research to be done, but applicants should be from the EU or associated countries.

Mr. Jeney thanked Mr. Linhart for the information, although he noted that third countries could also participate if they applied jointly with researchers from eligible countries. He warned the participants that applications should pass a strict evaluation process.

### **Agenda Point 7**

The president presented the planned next year's activities of NACEE, including the events to be organized, the conference participations and projects.

During the discussion, the following main additions and comments were made:

- Mr. Otomar Linhart confirmed that the University of South Bohemia was ready to host the General Assembly Meeting in 2014. He presented the university and the planned programme of the GA Meeting. Taking note of the changes proposed by the Executive Board, it was agreed that NACEE's next GA Meeting would take place on 14 May 2014, while the AQUARED POT workshop would be held on 12-13 May 2014 in Vodnany.
- Because of changes in the management, VNIRO could not host the Young Researchers' Conference, and thus, a new host needs to be found for the next year.
- Mr. Zsigmond Jeney proposed to include the AQUAEXCEL project into the work plan.

The general secretary requested the participants to let him know in the nearest future if they were ready to host the 2015 General Assembly.

After discussing the work plan, the president put forward the following proposed resolution:

### ***General Assembly (GA) Resolution 6/2013. (V.15.)***

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

Upon voting, the president declared that the members of the General Assembly accepted the resolution with 22 aye votes, without nay votes or abstentions.

## Agenda Point 8

After presenting the planned budget for year 2013, the president put forward the following proposed resolution:

### *General Assembly (GA) Resolution 7/2013. (V.15.)*

The General Assembly adopts the 2013 budget of NACEE with a planned income of 74.600 EUR and a planned expenditure of 75.156 EUR.

Upon voting, the president declared that the members of the General Assembly accepted the resolution with 22 aye votes, without nay votes or abstentions.

## Agenda Point 9

No additional issues to be discussed in plenary were proposed by the members.

Upon discussing all agenda points and adopting resolutions on them, the President closed the Fourth General Assembly of NACEE.

Date: Vilnius, 15 May 2013

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President of NACEE

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Rapporteur

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Moderator

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Verifier

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Verifier