

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the International Euphorbia Society, Held September 13th, 2014

On September 13th, 2014 the 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Euphorbia Society was held on occasion of the Europese Landen Konferentie (ELK) at Blankenberge, Belgium. Present were fourteen I. E. S. members, one National Representative (Giuseppe Orlando, Spain) and seven Committee Officers (Christian Blenn, General Support Officer; Volker Buddensiek, Editor; Thomas Cammaerts, Publicity Officer; Jaap Keijzer, Curator of the Reference Collection; Pjotr Lawant, Secretary & Asst. Editor; Bob Potter, Treasurer and Membership Administrator; and Rikus van Veldhuisen, Chairman.

**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 as present for approval of the Minutes of the 9th AGM of September 7th, 2013, as published on the website; put to the vote the Minutes are unanimously agreed by the meeting.

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

(1) The **Chairman**, Rikus van Veldhuisen, notes that about the attendance of this actual AGM all I. E. S. members have been informed by way of the website. He recalls to mind that the financial position of the I. E. S. enables the Society to publish its journal *Euphorbia World* three times per annum, just as we have in mind.

(2) The **Secretary**, Pjotr Lawant, reports that in the course of the year a lot of people wanted to know more about the society, and got informed appropriately. After the serious dip at the end of the year 2013, the number of subscribers is luckily increasing again and consists at this moment of 199 members. We still exchange EW against 8 journals of societies in the related field, topics considered of interest for I.E. S. members are reviewed in EW; in 8 cases the journal is sent as a complimentary copy.

(3) The **Treasurer**, Bob Potter, regards the actual financial status of the I. E. S. As being in good condition, although attention must be paid to the increasing postal costs of sending the journal. All depends on whether we can keep the renewals for 2015 sufficiently coming in.

(4) The **Editor**, Volker Buddensiek, reports that thanks to our Membership Administrator, Bob Potter, the issues of EW were distributed just on time to the members of the I. E. S. The Editor stresses again that members must not hesitate to submit papers about *Euphorbia* species to the Editor; all their experiences with specimens of the genus *Euphorbia* are considered recommendable. He strives for to have on hand a large choice of different papers, to be able to compose every time an issue of EW with interesting things for everyone. Because the combination of his duties as Editor and Web Officer *ad interim* is very time-consuming, he announces the last mentioned position as to fall vacant as from right away.

(5) The **Publicity Officer**, Thomas Cammaerts, anew invites everyone to visit the Facebook page about the I. E. S. It already proved to be an interesting interactive medium. He shall deal with the attendants as present his report about the intended Convention in the Botanical Garden in Meise, Belgium, for May 2015, sub item 6 of the agenda.

(6) The **General Support Officer**, Christian Blenn, notes he is happy to be able to share his commitment with succulent plants, particularly *Euphorbia* species, within in the Committee regarding the diverse activities now on the way.

(7) The **Curator of the Reference Collection**, Jaap Keijzer, welcomes everyone to visit the collection.

**4. Member's reactions about the foregoing reports.** Upon request, some more details are given. In general, members as present are pleased with the activities as performed up to now by the Committee Officers.

**5. Term.** According to the Constitution, Art. 11, the sitting term of 3 years is ending for the Chairman (Rikus van Veldhuisen), Secretary (Pjotr Lawant), Treasurer & Membership Administrator (Bob Potter), Editor (Volker Buddensiek), and the Curator of the Reference Collection (Jaap Keijzer). Upon request, they all declare to be willing to go on with their respective executive positions for a next term of 3 years (Pjotr Lawant in first instance for one year, for depending on his health). Subsequently, the Committee members are respectively re-elected by a simple majority vote by the members as present, done by acclamation.

**6. Convention.** The Publicity Officer, Thomas Cammaerts, reports that the preparations for the I. E. S. Convention to be held in the Botanic Garden Meise, on May 16th-17th, 2015, have reached a very final state. The Direction of the Botanic Garden Meise has fully cooperated, six known participants are willing to give a lecture, a plant show & sale and a guided tour have been organized, a flyer and registration form are made ready, a number of societies in the field of succulents are willing to give promotion, and all specifics about the Convention will become available on the I. E. S. website, including the best ways of paying the booking costs. The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, thanks Thomas Cammaerts for his tremendous efforts; he compliments him upon the successful organization of the Convention.

**7. Suggestions by members.** The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, reads out an email received from Chris Oldman, UK, about the actual status of *Euphorbia World*. Mr. Oldman proposes to have much more variation in the kind of articles, next a special forum page on which readers regularly can discuss with each other, and a much cheaper on-line journal copy. The members present lively discuss these options. The Editor, Volker Buddensiek, stipulates that for him variation in the papers has always had the highest priority, and the members present agree, looking back at the past issues. They reject a fixed readers' discussion page, but the possibility of a cheaper on-line version of EW on offer, i. e. at a reduced membership fee, must be considered a matter to be discussed in future, they decide.

**8. How to increase the number of subscribers.** No special suggestions are given.

**9. Other activities of the I. E. S.** Besides the intended Convention, no specific other activities are in our mind.

**10. Questions; discussion.** The members as present all seem to be contented with the subjects as presented and the discussions about them; no further comments or questions are raised.

**11. Final conclusion.** The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, is pleased to see that we may look back on a successful general meeting. He recalls to mind that there exists a vacancy for the positions of Web Officer and Vice-Chairman. Everyone interested is invited to get urgently in touch with the Chairman.

**12. Closure of the AGM.** The Chairman, Rikus van Veldhuisen, summarizes the contents of the meeting. He thanks everyone present for their attendance and for their contributions, and closes the tenth AGM of the I. E. S.

The Minutes of the AGM have been composed by the I. E. S. Secretary, Pjotr Lawant.