

Minutes of the EATA Delegates Meeting 14.9.2019 in Rychnov, April Hotel



Vladimir Hullman, president of the local association "Aquaterra Rychnov", opens the conference and invites all participants to the exhibition and to the evening party. Likewise, Prof. Dr. Petr Dvorak (President AKVACZ) greets the participants.

1. Welcome the participants

Present are delegates from VDA (Jan Peter Greve), DGHT (Dr. Markus Monzel, Dr. Peter Sound), ÖVVÖ (Dr. Michael Köck), SDAT (Erich Bühlmann, Röbi Guggenbühl), AKVACZ (Petr Dvorak, Alena Mocova, Jan Burzanovsky), BBAT, Werner Dossler, ICAIF and Discusclub Poland. Absent are AR-CAT, FFA and NBAT.

President Dr. Peter Sound welcomes the delegates and thanks our hosts and in particular Petr Dvorak for the direction and organization.

The invitation was made on time and in form.

2. Approval of the 2018 Minutes

The 2018 Minutes are adopted unanimously.

Many thanks to Thierry.

3. Annual Report of the President

Many decisions were taken at the meeting last year to improve the structures of EATA and its public awareness. The website was missing, however it is very important for the visibility of EATA. The President thanks Michael Köck and Andreas Schramm for the elaboration of the structure of the homepage. EATA needed a bit more time for the build process. The different cultures and the volunteer work pushed the delegates to their limits. Now the page is almost finished and only needs some texts and editorial changes before activation.

The cooperation with the French association currently needs improvement. The FFA's chairman questions the cooperation with EATA. EATA can currently meet the expectations of the FFA, such as a seat in Brussels. France is an important country in the joint work of European aquarium and terrarium associations. The EATA president hopes that the FFA will be actively involved in EATA again.

In Luxembourg, a ban on the keeping of venomous snakes was to be implemented without the participation of the specialised associations. Specifically, the government wanted to introduce a total ban on dangerous animals. Markus Monzel has great efforts to obtain that knowledgeable keepers could get a permit (Proof of expertise, Sachkundenachweis). At the moment it looks positive for the owners. Decisive is the question of expertise. It looks as if the DGHT could play a role here.

Likewise, positive lists for reptiles are to be introduced in Belgium. The DGHT was then able to

submit reproduction statistics. This made it possible to see which species are already bred in Europe. Nevertheless, there are different positive lists in Wallonia and Flanders. In the opinion of the President, this violates EU competition law.

In Germany, the SPD still launches initiatives to ban the keeping of animals. Political work has meant that members of the strongest associations have had the opportunity to influence higher political levels. The outbreak of a cobra recently in Germany could lead to bring the question of a ban on the table again (at least in some federal states). So it is imperative to maintain political contacts.

The EU keeps producing active lists of invasive species. These are being extended almost continuously. In practice, it is obvious that their implementation is not easy.

EATA works cooperatively. The mutual exchange of information must be ensured. EATA can not work successfully on the mere payment of membership fees. Each association must also contribute.

The concrete flow of information should be optimized. It is important that requests are formulated personally. Whatsapp has established itself as a fast platform. Since not all delegates have Whatsapp, decisions must be sent by mail.

4. Adoption of the annual financial statements / auditors' report

The annual financial statements and the auditor's report are not available. The report must be delivered in writing.

5. Determination of the annual contribution

Last year it was made clear that the contributions did not correspond to the increased task costs. Peter Sound thanks the DGHT and the VDA for paying various travel activities. In 2018 a graduation of the membership fees in logarithmic form was decided.

Status of fees and payments:

- BBAT: paid 250.- Euro
- ICAIF: paid 50.- Euro
- VDA confirms full support. As a large association they take responsibility. Please check payment.
- AKVAZ: will pay 100.- Euro. Transfer of Czech crowns to France is very expensive. Petr will hand over money in cash.
- Polska Grupa Akwarystow (discusclub.pl, Poland) joined EATA and paid 25.- Euro.
- SDAT will pay 100.-Euro.
- ARCAT will pay 100.- Euro
- ÖVVÖ: paid homepage, the remainder was transferred.
- The current contributions should be kept. This decision is accepted unanimously.
- Eddy asks NBAT to pay the annual fee.
- Markus asks Luxembourger to join.
- Petr and Michael will ask the Slovak and Ukrainian associations to join EATA.

6. Statutes adjustment

The following proposal was adopted unanimously:

4.3 If there is no organized association in a nation, a maximum of two clubs, each with one vote, may provisionally become a member of EATA until the formation of a national association.

7. Homepage

So far we have paid 1800.- Euro, 600.- Euro are still pending. Measured by the commercial cost of this service, this is very cheap.

Michael Koeck introduces the homepage. For various topics, the text still has to be developed.

The individual associations should write the translations. If a new text is created, it should be sent to the administrator with all translations.

The following tasks are distributed:

Until 15.10.:

- translation of existing texts, e.g. Imprint, Privacy Policy in Dutch: Werner Dossler, Date: 15.10.19
- New statutes must be available in all languages
- Presidium must be complete (including photos)
- settle the bill of Euro 600.-

Until 30.10. (all texts in all languages):

- Text "Who are we": Peter Sound
- Text "What do we stand for": Michael
- Membership text: Erich Bühlmann, possibly member form

Until 15.11.:

Language responsible defined (already done):

- Dutch: Werner
- English: Thierry
- French: Thierry
- Czech: Petr
- Polish: Andrzej

- Röbi Guggenbühl takes over the conservation projects for aquariums (Aquaristik). The DGHT takes over the responsibility for the conservation projects for terrariums (Terraristik).
- Conservation: Michael
- Sustainability: Ideas are e.g. buy regional, cooperate with the German Zoo association (Zoo-fachverband); Erich asks Werner Witopil if he writes a few lines about it.

Administrator:

The administrator should receive news with all translations. So the effort can be reduced. Jan-Dieter asks possible administrator in the VDA, Markus searches in the DGHT; possible administrator: Matthias Eurich.

The new administrator should be found until 1.11.19.

Basically, we are ready to pay an expense allowance.

Erich asks for easy-to-understand instructions for association managers to publish news etc. on the homepage.

8. Reproduction / Conservation breeding / Species conservation

DGHT has 16 working groups, some of which currently has quite large record of reproduction (e.g., turtles). Problem, how does DGHT get more data? In a workshop, this deficit could be reduced as much as possible. Records should all be brought into a consistent format so that they can be published. Data from private owners are in demand internationally. They will be anonymised.

The VDA strives to network with other associations.

Species conservation is subject-specific and should be left to the specialized associations. A Species coordinator would have the overview. EATA has to issue and distribute the projects.

9. Day of the public aquariums 3.11.2019

The VDA organises a day as usual. So does SDAT. BBAT plans to participate next year. Next year, the date will be 1.11.2020.

10. Informations from the Associations

BBAT has published a book "Aquaristik for Kids" to motivate the youth (8-11 years) for an aquarium. The book offers the opportunity to take notes. Over a QR code the reader can access films. Tetra and JBL supported the project. The book costs 46 cents. This project should be published on the homepage under "youth work". Werner sends a book to each association.

SDAT: offspring from Swiss reproduction are increasingly being sold in pet shops. The Swiss breeders must have a seal of quality. If over 1000 fish are sold, the seller must follow a specific training (subject-specific vocational training: fachspezifische berufsunabhängige Ausbildung). Currently there is a course with 13 participants. In addition, the SDAT is increasingly used as an expert.

ICAIF: contacts with "France Vivipare" and the Betta Group. There is a positive list for reptiles in Wallonia (232 species) and another in Flanders (422). From our point of view, it is nonsense to have different positive lists for Wallonia and Flanders ... and possibly for other countries as well. After we had a positive list for reptiles, we were asked to create a positive list for fish. The question is whether we will continue to import fish collected in the wild. We also need to create a positive list for fish. How it goes on is open.

Peter Sound gives hints on how to tackle positive lists. According to lawyers, positive lists should never be possible at the country level, as this leads to a distortion of competition. Either

a positive list is introduced throughout the EU or not in any country. If only in one country positive list should be introduced, one would have to complain against it. European law goes before national law.

11. Miscellaneous

The next meeting will take place on 5 September 2020. Place is still open. Werner Dossler and Markus Monzel are responsible. If possible, European Pet Organization (EPO) representatives should be invited to this meeting.

Peter Sound has asked Stefan Hetz if he still can fill the vice presidency. The board consists of only a few people. To be able to act, everyone in the board must actively participate.

If Stefan does not answer rapidly, Dr. Markus Monzel will take over the position of interim vice-president, until he is elected by circulation decision.

The meeting will end at 15.45.