



**Minutes of the  
16th General Meeting  
of the**

**European Industrial Hemp Association e.V.  
(EIHA)  
Hürth/Germany**

11<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, 11:15 am to 5:15 pm, Freierabendhaus, Industriestraße 300, 50354 Hürth, Germany.

The 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, at the Feierabendhaus, Hürth. The meeting started at 11:15 with Michael Carus welcoming all the participants, followed by the introduction of each member present, indicating their name and company represented.

Michael Carus continued his introductory remarks by pointing out that **May's conference was the biggest in the last 10 years**. The main reason for this increased participation was attributed to the pharmaceutical use of CBD.

The first topic discussed was the **voting structure**. There were a total of 8 regular members with 10 votes each, of which 3 have an area of more than 800 ha and were attributed an extra vote. There were also 9 associated members present, allowed a vote each, representing **a grand total of 92 possible votes**. Rafael Dulon from HanfFarm passed his votes to Daniel Kruse, now voting on his behalf.

## Attendance:

Michael Carus	nova Institut	1 vote
Bernd Frank	BaFa	11 votes
Bernd Frank	Planet Chanvre	1 vote
Bettina Fink	C.A.R.M.E.N. e.V.	1 vote
Albert Dun	Dunagro	11 votes
Rob Knipers	Dunagro	0 votes
Birgit Forchhammer	NATECO2	1 vote
Daniel Kruse	Hempro Int. GmbH & Co. KG	10 votes
Daniel Kruse	HempConsult	1 vote
Daniel Kruse	HempFactory	10 votes
Daniel Kruse	HanfFarm	10 votes <i>(on behalf of R. Dulon)</i>
Skirmantas Nikstele	Agropro	1 vote
Hana Gabrielova	Hempoint	1 vote
Iva Pouskova	Naturenaam	0 votes
Boris Banas	Propaganda production	10 votes
Michal Tozser	Propaganda production	0 votes
John Hobson	GW Pharmaceuticals	1 vote
Sylvestre Bertucelli	Interchanvre	10 votes
Ernesto Diringuer	CannaPower	0 votes
Mark Reinders	Hempflax	11 votes
Frank Reiche	Naporo	1 vote

**TOTAL votes: 92**

The following topic was the **status of the hemp industry in 2014**. Agricultural area has increased to an approximate total of 16,000 ha in Europe, with last decade's decrease offset and requests from other companies indicating a potential continuation in growth. The board was then introduced, along with statistics on membership values and geographic distribution. EIHA is the sole data collector of the **Hemp cultivation area**, since the EU no longer collects this information. The members present were asked to correct the areas listed for each country on the slideshow. The corrections to the hemp cultivation area were as follows:

HempFactory has changed from 200 to 100 ha; In France 'all others' (independent farmers) we should add 600 ha; Slovakia add 50 ha; Czech Republic add 210 ha; The Baltic states should be changed to 1061 ha in Lithuania and 250 ha in Latvia and 210 ha in Estonia,. BaFa promised to be in touch later to confirm its values. All other areas were kept as presented.

**Action in early 2015:** Luis from nova-Institute will collect and update the final data, and Michael will send it officially to the EU Commission.

**The price of hemp and flax technical short fibres** was briefly presented. There has been a very moderate and slow increase in the price of Hemp over the last 12 years (20%) compared to other fibres. Flax prices keep rising, which is good for Hemp. Sylvestre Bertucelli will take part in the two-monthly collection of price data with assistance from Dominik/Luis from nova.

*Completed and on going activities in 2014/2015*

**Lobbying in Brussels on the CAP** has been done by Sylvestre Bertucelli, who proposed a team of 2-3 EIHA experts to ask 4-10 MEPs early next year (**action in 2015**) to support our demand to get Hemp on the main list of accepted crops for Ecological Focus Areas (EFA, "Greening"). Hemp is currently on the annex list, which is a good position but is vulnerable to refusal by individual member states. It was suggested to approach each member state separately. French, Dutch, German and Italian MEPs will be lobbied first as their countries have strong positions at the moment in the agricultural committees. Sylvestre will organize the lobbying. The strong cooperation between EIHA and InterChanvre gives an additional strength to the activities. Furthermore, the activities for a sustainability certification of Hemp raw materials (ISCC PLUS) will support the inclusion on the main list.

**FoodDrink Europe is a civil dialogue tool** between Industry, NGOs, experts and the EU administration. A seat remains for EIHA as the association gains strength and organizational structure. EIHA is at the forum as an expert. It is particularly important to retain the seat as it makes it easier to remain present in future sessions. FoodDrink could become important in the context of upcoming THC and CBD regulations.

Michael described his **lobbying activities on bio-based economy** in the bio-based expert group of DG Growth. Also the bio-based panel, the SCAR foresight on bio-based economy and finally the CEN / TC411 working group on standards for bio-based products. Most important is to keep the new standards, norms and labelling in line with Hemp products.

**All lobbying activities and CEN membership were unanimously agreed to be important and ought to be continue, by 92 votes in favour and none against. More information will be given next year.**

The new EIHA leaflet, usually offered for lobbying and dissemination, now contains new information. The new information was deemed good but needs to be kept up to date.

**Action 2015:** Luis & Michael from nova will design and start a **survey on market share values** early in 2015. Sylvestre/InterChanvre will support the survey with French data. A budget proposal will be presented early 2015. **This project was agreed with 92 votes in favour and none against.**

The “**Updated Report on THC limits in food**” aims at protecting Hemp food from excessively strict and unrealistic THC regulations. nova-Institut will try to have a first draft ready in January for review by EIHA members. German tests on the THC transfer from feed to milk and meat are currently taking place, run by both EFSA and its German counterpart BFR. EIHA will develop and publish guidance levels that it hopes will aid the development of legislation. The consultations on THC limits in food and feed by the Commission will start early summer 2015 after the EFSA report is published in May 2015.

The total budget was increased from 8,200 € to 10,000 €, which is more than covered by the donation from Hemp food companies (ca. 14,000 €). The additional budget will be used for lobbying activities in Brussels with additional support from: Jace, Anndrea, Stephano, Prof. Brenneisen, Eberhard Pirich (BIONORICA & Board member of the European Health Forum has excellent contacts to EFSA), along with Bruce Cottrill (ADAS UK) and Germany BFR, both already involved with EFSA.

**The budget increase and the continuation of the activities described were approved by all members present, with 92 votes in favour, there was no dissenting vote.**

**LCA on insulation material:** A point was raised that the association needs to again ask a Belgium contact to get the conclusion of a scientific report by a national agency so that it is available for the members. **Action 2015:** A final copy of the Belgian governmental scientific paper on hemp will be retrieved and, if possible, presented at the next General Meeting.

Michael informed the meeting that nova will undertake an even more comprehensive LCA study in the framework of the MultiHemp project, results can be expected early 2016.

**EIHA’s booths** at past conferences were presented and **all present members voted for these booths to be booked for the upcoming year, with 92 votes in favour and none against.** The booths are at the Composites Europe 2015 and the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Bio-based Materials.

**Next EIHA Conference:** call for speakers and confirmed speakers presented. Any suggestions ought to be sent to Dominik or Luis – especially to make an attractive session on CBD at the afternoon of the second day.

The **financial report** was also presented for this year and the coming year, the latter **approved unanimously.**

In short

- New business cards & EIHA note paper (nova, executive office)
- New web page [www.eiha.org](http://www.eiha.org) with WordPress system (nova, IT 4,000 € paid)
- Int. Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBIB2014/15) (nova)
- Booth at the 7th International Conference on Bio-based Materials, April 2014
- Cooperation with EFSA, comprehensive answers to all questions – different documents (nova, Luis, Michael, Franjo, Daniel – 12 days of Luis)
- Collection of donations for the EFSA/THC work (14,000 €)
- Booth at the Composites Europe, Sept. 2014 – the costs of 3,900 € were shared by CAVAC, HempFlax, PlanetChanvre and EIHA (900 €)
- Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) for insulation materials – Joining of the group was finally NOT possible.
- EIHA entry (german language) back to Wikipedia – English version follows a.s.a.p

**Exoneration of the Board of Directors took place, with 92 votes in favour, none against, no abstentions.**

*New activities for next year*

**ISCC PLUS certification:** After a comprehensive presentation by Martha from nova and a detailed discussion, the General Meeting **decided to support every regular EIHA member who starts the ISCC PLUS certification before the end of March 2015. They will be financially supported by EIHA with 50% of the total costs, until March 2016** (including the costs of nova supporting the process). Also the costs of nova-Institute for preparing the whole exercise will be covered. This was **approved with 92 votes in favour and none against.**

The main results of the coming report “**Carbon footprint and sustainability of different natural fibres**” for biocomposites were presented. Overall the presentation concluded that Hemp is not a worse performer than other natural fibres, as stated by BMW, and that it may indeed be a better performer if one considers GHG release during retting. This will be better understood at a later stage. Currently the study will be ready for review in early (Jan) 2015, also a comparison with synthetic fibres will be included. The retting trials with Kenaf and Hemp, field and water retting will be done in 2015 in the framework of the MultiHemp project.

EIHA will support this work with 4,000 €, with an additional 4,000 € coming from the Hemp non-woven industry - plus additional printing costs. **All agreed, 92 votes in favour for the continuation of the paper.**

**Booth at the Composites Europe 2015** – the costs of 3,900 € were shared by three companies (again CAVAC, HempFlax, PlanetChanvre additional members are welcome) and EIHA (900 €). All agreed.

**Booth at the 8th International Conference on Bio-based Materials, April 2015**, booked (ca. 1,000 €). All agreed.

The **decision** taken at the board meeting , in which **emails with concrete commercial offers to members will be not allowed in the future** was presented.; only information and requests are welcome. **Unanimously agreed.**

Daniel presented his hemp world tour to Slovenia, Canada, China and India. Which ended with a short video of the Indian Industrial Hemp Association (IIHA). The following discussion led to the **working group “WG EIHA Video”** being implemented, with **Michal Tözser (group leader)**, Boris Banas, Hana Gabrielova, Mark Reinders, Albert Dun and Daniel Kruse. Michal will present the concept of the video at the next general meeting in May 2015. **All in favour and no objections.**

**Action 2015:** Michael proposes a **poster** to be produced based on the leaflet for the commission. **All in favour and no objections.**

The topic of **CBD** was introduced by Boris Banas, suggesting that a statement should be put forward by EIHA to develop and guarantee a quality standard of CBD. It was unanimously agreed that **any major activity on CBD should only be tackled after the current THC report is finished.**

**Action 2015:** The **working group “WG CBD quality”** was created to avoid a potential negative impact on the market. Michael will organize a meeting after the THC & food report is published. Interested members in this WG: Skirmantas Nikstele, Boris Banas, Albert Dun and Daniel Kruse.

Boris asked for a **“food stakeholders’ meeting“** in March. Michael will organize this meeting, probably in combination with a discussion on the EIHA proposal of new THC limits for food and the quality label and guidelines for hemp seeds (see below).

#### **Additional activities in short**

- John will try with Sylvestre’s help to get **LCDA and Eurochanvre to join EIHA** as a regular members. John will write an official invitation letter early 2015.
- Summer 2015: **Round robin lab test on THC measurements** (Michael, Daniel)
- Summer 2015: **Quality label and guideline for hemp seeds** (Michael, Daniel)

**Finally:** More information for and more integration of all regular EIHA members (not only the board) will take place.

With no further topic, the minutes were closed at 17:15 with the end of the meeting.

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Michael Carus  
Chairman of the Meeting

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Luis Sarmiento  
Keeper of the minutes