

**Minutes of the
18th General Meeting
of the**

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

10th of December 2015, 11:00 to 17:00, Chemiepark Knapsack, Industriestraße 300, 50354 Hürth, Germany.

The 18th General Meeting of the European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) took place on the 10th of December 2015, Chemiepark Knapsack, Industriestraße 300, 50354 Hürth, Germany. The meeting started at 11:00 with EIHA's managing director Michael Carus (hereinafter "Chairman of the meeting") and EIHA's President John Hobson (hereinafter "President" and second chairman of the meeting) welcoming all the participants. The General Meeting convened and a quorum was statutory. Luis Sarmiento was unanimously determined the keeper of the minutes. This was followed by a round table introductory session.

The first topic discussed was the **voting structure**. There were 18 participants at the meeting. Ten were regular members, with four above the 1,000 ha and thus attributed an extra four votes (these are: HempFlax Europe, CAVAC, Planete Chanvre and DunAgro), in a total of 104. Three further regular members passed on their voting rights to present members, in a total of 31 votes. Nine votes (partly passed on voting rights to present members) were derived from associate members. **A grand total of 144 votes were present.**

Continuing activities:

- **All were in favour of** an update to be made to the presentation of the association, namely member's map and a list of all regular members
- **Unanimous vote to continue collection of data on farmed land dedicated to hemp**
- **Unanimous vote to continue collection of data on the Natural 'technical' Fibre price index**
- **All lobbying activities were voted to continue.**
- All in favour of **continuation of EIHA's investigation on the impact of THC in food, including a workshop with members of EFSA and a proposal by the executive office on:** Improvement of uncertainty factor, Hemp food consumption patterns, argumentation for a 2x Acceptable Daily Intake, THC impacts on children, review on the use of proper hemp containing feed, literature review on CBD and THC interaction.
- Update of the Hemp Poster was agreed, pending the results of the EIHA survey
- Budget: All expenses were presented and a financial overview for the next year was shown. Treasurer Bernd Frank evaluated the financial report and signed it.
- **Unanimous vote to continue with nova as executive office.** 14,000 € instead of the so far 12,000 €, as a donation for the hemp supporting work was agreed.

Voting: Exoneration of the old board, election of the new board, increased fee and change to the statute

The voting on: **exoneration of the board of directors** passed with 133 (92%) points for and 11 (8%) against, no abstentions.

Election of the Board of Directors: Block voting was chosen over individual voting, with the former winning with 144 (100%) votes for and none against, no abstentions.

The Board of Directors has been re-elected and expanded: Sylvestre Bertucelli (Interchanvre, FR), Bernd Frank (Bafa, DE), John Hobson (GW Research Ltd, UK), Oliver Joreau (CAVAC, FR), Daniel Kruse (Hempro, DE), Mark Reinders (HempFlax, NL), and for the first time Daniela Sfrija (CANAH, RO) are member of the board of directors of the EIHA. Ms Sfrija accepted the election.

It has come to our attention that the Chairman made a mistake at the General Meeting: EIHA-Statutes: “The Board of Directors, the Chairperson and the two Deputy Chairs will be elected at the General Meeting for a period of two years” and not by the board, as thought by the Chairman. We apologize for this mistake.

The executive office asked the new board members after the General Meeting, who would like to be President (we needed at least two) and who would like to be the Treasurer (Second Deputy).

All participants of the last General Meeting were asked to elect in an electronic manner. John Hobson (132 votes, GW Research Ltd, UK) has been elected as new President of the EIHA, Mark Reinders (67 votes, HempFlax, NL) as Deputy President and Bernd Frank (55 votes, Bafa, DE) as Treasurer.

Albert Dun proposed that, **at least, one member of the board should be changed every election season**. With 26 (25%) for, 76 (75%) against and 42 abstentions *¹, **the motion did not pass**.

The next point in the agenda was the **review of the application form**. A proposal to include more information on the form was put forward. By the mid of January, a new application form will be shown to members (action 12). Decision was made to include more information on the company along with a simple yes or no question on whether the applying company has any affiliation with other board or other regular members. The concrete regular member of the affiliation is to be provided in a voluntary basis only. After the previously exposed discussion, **vote unanimous in favour of the motion**.

Three companies requested to join as regular members and are now awaiting the new form to become regular members.

The Chairman proceeded with the introduction of a potential **change of the statute to become regular member**.

A **change to the statute** on regular membership of affiliated new members was the next topic in the agenda (for details please see the document prepared for the General Meeting); because some participants left already, the total number of votes decreased to 123. It was broken down into two parts: **Granting of amnesty to current members** passed with 0 abstentions, 100 votes (81%) for amnesty without Transparency and 23 votes (19%) for amnesty with transparency. This implies that current members of the Association will not be enquired on their affiliation to other member companies.

¹ * “Abstention is a term in election procedure for when a participant in a vote either does not go to vote (on election day) or, in parliamentary procedure, is present during the vote, but does not cast a ballot. ... Abstentions do not count in tallying the vote negatively or positively.”

(<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstention>)

The **voting for the change of the statute for new members**, required a 75% favourable vote. The motion passed with 78 for (88%), 11 against (12%) and 34 abstentions *. Therefore, new members will be asked whether they have an affiliation to any company on their application form. **Voting to change the statute was passed.** The executive office will update the statute and implement it legally with the notary.

New activities:

- **Leaflet update** (incl. a new map of members and a list of all regular members) was **unanimously** agreed, pending distribution and feedback from the members.
- **Round Robin test** was explained and debated. Tender open to all labs and should have 2 options, with and without CBD. **Board will approve the final tender.**
- A **working group** was approved (to be nominated later) for the works with **CBD regulation.**
- A **working group** was approved (to be nominated later) for the works with **THC limit change in crops from 0.2 to 0.3%.**
- **Quality label** for seeds was deemed not to be a priority at the moment.
- A **press release for hemp fibres** was agreed with no mentioning of recent ICSS certification for hemp fibres from the Netherlands and Romania.
- A **working group** was approved (to be nominated later) for the works **on Shivs.**
- A **membership fee raised** was proposed on a two-part voting. Fee costs were paired with voting rights. A 10% increase in the fees was agreed for both associated and regular members. **Both motions passed unanimously.** Regular members with no ha relation will pay the lowest fee for regular members as a flat value equivalent to 10 votes such as companies with less than 1,000 ha.
- **Michael will talk to Mr. Pirich** who may know more details on CBD regulation.
- **Meeting on the EFSA report and the EIHA/nova THC in food guidance values will be held in Brussels on the 13 January 2016.**

With no more issues to debate, the session was closed.

Hürth, 22 February 2016

Michael Carus
Chairman of the meeting

Luis Sarmiento
Keeper of the minutes