



**Minutes of the
19th General Meeting
of the**

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

31st of May 2016, 19:15 to 22:00, Rheinforum, Kölnerstraße 42, Wesseling, Germany.

The 19th General Meeting of the European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) took place on the 31st of May 2016, at the Rheinforum, Wesseling. The meeting started at 19:15 with EIHA's managing director Michael Carus (hereinafter "Chairman of the Meeting") welcoming all the participants, and noted that **the General Meeting convened and a quorum is statutory**. Luis Sarmento was unanimously determined as a keeper of the minutes.

The Chairman of the meeting started by presenting the **voting structure**. There were a total of 15 regular members with 10 votes each, of which 4 have an area of more than 1,000 ha and were attributed an extra vote. There were also 12 associated members present, allowed a vote each, representing **a grand total of 166 possible votes**. Several other people attended the event, including additional employees of member companies with no voting right.

Before the exoneration of the board of directors, the **current activities** were presented:

- Agreed **update of the statute** was presented. Two important decisions had been taken last GM. Firstly, it had been agreed there will be conditions by which a member can be accepted or expelled. This decision included a change to the application form (especially affiliation between regular members) that was presented by the chairman. Secondly, future changes to the statute will only be possible with a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority voting.
- Different **email interest groups** were created. These are: board@eiha.org, CBD@eiha.org, Fibres@eiha.org, Food@eiha.org, Regular@eiha.org, Shivs@eiha.org, THC_crop-limit@eiha.org and THC_food-limits@eiha.org. Regular members are allowed to join any of the groups for free. Additional experts on specific topics and associated members on request can be invited to special interest groups. The communication in these groups started very promising.
- **Trade fairs and conferences since December 2015**: EIHA was represented at Composites Europe (Stuttgart); International Conference on Bio-based materials (Cologne); European Parliament event on hemp (Brussels); event on cannabis & hemp (Tanger).
- **EIHA leaflet**: Current update shown. Few comments and corrections were suggested. For any comments, please contact Luis (luis.sarmento@eiha.org)
- **EIHA Poster**: new EIHA poster was presented with new (2013) hemp market data.
- **ISCC+**: HanfFarm certification is done and has received EIHA's agreed funding. HempFlax is close (June) and others may follow. Hemp certification is unique for natural fibre and assures traceability of origin as well as product quality.

Once all current activities were presented, the present members voted for **the exoneration of the board of directors**. With no questions from the members, the question was put to a vote.
With 166 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions, the motion was passed.

At this point, the Chairman of the meeting called for a dinner break.

The meeting was restarted at 20:30 with an introduction by the director of EIHA, **John Hobson (GW Research, UK)**. The President gave a few words on his experience heading EIHA, before announcing that he had **decided to leave the position due to potential conflict of interests in the future**. John will also leave the board of directors but GW Research will remain a regular member. The speech was very well received by the members who dedicated a standing ovation to the ongoing president, thanking him for his great job for the association and the industry. John will be dearly missed.

Due to departure of GW Research from the board of directors, a **new board member** needed to be elected from among the regular members. Boris Banas, from Propaganda production (Slovakia), and Albert Dun, from Dun Agro (NL), were nominated. After both candidates gave a small speech, the position was open for a vote.

With 148 votes for Boris Banas, 16 for Albert Dun and 2 abstentions, Boris was elected as the new member of the board.

Now that all board positions were filled, a **new president** was needed. The only candidate to be mentioned from among the board was **Mark Reinders, from HempFlax (NL)**. With no oponents, the motion was put to a Yes or No vote. After a few remarks the voting procedure followed.

With 142 votes yes, 0 no and 24 abstentions, Mark Reinders was elected the new President of EIHA.

(At this point SATIMED left the meeting, reducing the number of total votes to 165)

Due to Mark's election as president, the position of **Deputy President** was left open. From among the board members, **Sylvestre Bertucelli, InterChanvre**, was proposed. After a quick speech, the motion was put to a Yes or No vote.

With 153 Yes, 0 no and 12 abstentions, Sylvestre Bertucelli was elected new EIHA deputy President.

The director of EIHA continued his **presentation on EIHA**.

- EIHA currently has **136 members: 14 regular and 122 associate**
- Hemp current status around the world and last EIHA conference were presented
- It was estimated that **290 people would be attending the conference in 2016**. That number ended up being 297. A world and industry record. Two new features of the event: **match making for business meetings and #EIHA2016 for twitter**

Latest data on hemp and the hemp market was presented by the director.

- Cultivation area: above **25,000 ha** in Europe for 2015.
- **2013 hemp market data** was presented.
- **Price Index for natural fibres** was also shown.
- **Lack of follow through on data sharing** by members identified as a problem
- Call was made for **all members to share their data. This is a requirement on the statute.**
- Voting on whether regular members who do not share data before August of the year could be excluded from regular membership, also those who has not paid their EIHA fee by end of June.

With 151 in favour, 0 against and 6 abstentions, the motion was passed.

Financial status was exposed. For more details on the accounting of the association, please review the presentation available for members or contact the Executive Office.

- **A lot of members have not yet paid their membership fee**

- **More funds are needed or EIHA's activities to be continued.**

The next presented topic was on **updates to the guidelines for THC in hemp food goods**. The EIHA THC report **was well received in Europe, by both EFSA and the EU commission**. EFSA seems to have a positive look towards THC in food and to be understanding of the hemp market. **EIHA is in a good relation and close contact with both EFSA and the Commission.**

EIHA's new activities:

- **Position paper on THC guidance** values for food to be pursued further
- **Position paper on THC limits for industrial hemp**. EIHA will lobby for **THC limits for industrial hemp varieties in the field** to be changed from 0.2% to 0.3%
- **Position paper on CBD legislation and regulation**. EIHA will also work on an agreed decision of dividing CBD containing products into three categories: Low, medium and high. Emphasis of EIHA's position paper will be in scientifically separating medical from non-medical CBD, focusing on CBD's effective working method and low side effects.

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