



**Minutes of the
14th General Meeting
of the**

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

28 November 2013, 11 am to 5 pm, Feierabendhaus, Industriestraße 300, 50354 Hürth, Germany.

Managing director of EIHA Michael Carus (hereinafter “Chairman of the Meeting”) took over the chairing of the meeting and opened it by 11 am. He welcomed the participants and noted that the General Meeting convened and a quorum is statutory. Afterwards Dominik Vogt was unanimously determined as a keeper of the minutes. Then, the Chairman announced the following agenda:

- 1. Status report on EIHA and Hemp**
- 2. EIHA lobbying activities in 2013**
 - Status lobbying in Brussels concerning CAP, LMI and more (Michael Carus, John Hobson)
 - Trend reports from the countries
 - EIHA representation / liaison at CEN TC 411 (Michael Carus)
 - Update EIHA leaflet fibres
 - Natural Fibres in the Automotive Industry (Michael Carus)
 - Life cycle assessment of hemp fibre production and hemp products in Europe - including comparison to other natural fibres (Roland Essel)
- 3. Studies, position papers**
 - Update of fibre price data
 - Updated list of automotive customers & Hemp insulation (Michael Carus)
- 4. Trade fairs and conferences, marketing support**
 - Int. Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBIB2014/15)
- 5. Financial report of the EIHA & exclusion of non paying members**
- 6. Exoneration and election of the Board of Directors & election of Financial Auditors**
- 7. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2013/14**
 - Update www.eiha.org with Wordpress system
 - New business cards & EIHA letter paper
 - Next step Sustainability Certification (ISCC) – in the framework of the EU FP7 MultiHemp project
 - Technical Workshop together with CELC for EIHA members & composites industry
 - Meta LCA on Hemp fibre insulation
 - Lobbying activities in Brussels: next steps
 - Others (EC Regulation 383/2013...)

Opposition to this agenda was not raised. The chairman asked everyone to present themselves (name, activity, company). Then, the following agenda items were completed:

1. Status report on EIHA and Hemp

The Chairman presented an overview of EIHA and the European map of hemp production. In 2013, EIHA includes 10 regular and 75 associate members, 68 members from European countries, 17 members from other countries.

There is a total hemp cultivation area of approx. 14,000 ha in the EU in 2012.

2. EIHA lobbying activities in 2013

The Chairman presented the ongoing lobbying activities in Brussels and the activities at the LMI and its “Expert Group for Bio-based Products”. Sylvestre Bertucelli (InterChanvre, F) and Daniel Kruse (Hempro, D) gave an update on the activities in Brussels (CAP, general lobbying):

- John Hobson (Plant Fibre Technology, formerly Hemp Technology Ltd., Great Britain): As a president involved in all lobbying activities.
- Sylvestre Bertucelli (InterChanvre, F): Focus on CAP reform, DG Agriculture and European Parliament. In France it is difficult to receive subsidies for hemp cropping. A decision concerning a new subsidy is being expected within a few weeks. The processing aid has been cancelled a few years ago and a compensation of this subsidy has not been found until today.
- Michael Carus (nova-Institut, D): EIHA is part of the “Bio-based Expert Group”, DG Enterprise – high level committee to steer the Bio-based Economy.
- Roland Essel & Lena Scholz (nova-Institut, D): EIHA is member of CEN/TC 411, Bio-based products, Certification and Sustainability / LCA.
- Daniel Kruse (Hempro, D) & Sylvestre Bertucelli (InterChanvre, F): It was very important to be part of the advisory group of the EU because nobody within this group has ever heard of products like hemp food, oil und proteins.

In addition, the following topics were discussed:

- Update EIHA leaflet fibres: first updates were done. It was decided to include the content of the leaflet “hemp seeds and hemp oil as food”
- Study “Natural Fibres in the Automotive Industry” (Michael Carus): The final version of this study will be published in early 2014. The most dominant use of natural fibre composites by far can be found in interior parts of the automotive industry – other sectors such as consumer goods are still in a very early stage. In automotive, natural fibres composites have a clear focus on interior trims for doors for high-value doors and dashboard. The total volume is 80,000 t for wood and natural fibres used in 150,000 t of composites in passenger cars and lorries, produced in Europe in 2012 (90,000 t Natural Fibre Composites and 60,000 t WPC). The highest market shares are made up for by wood (European origin), recycled cotton (from world market) and flax fibres (European origin). Compared to the last survey for the year 2005, the shares of kenaf (from Asia) and hemp fibres (European origin) show the biggest increase in percentage. In the EU, 15.7 million passenger cars were produced in 2011; in addition, 2 millions of other motor vehicles (incl. trucks, transporter, motor bikes, etc.) were manufactured. Considering that 30,000 tonnes of natural fibres and another 30,000 tonnes of wood fibres were used in 15.7 million passenger cars, every passenger car in Europa averagely contains 1.9 kg of natural fibres, respectively 1.9 kg wood fibres, so in total that makes almost 4 kg of these fibres per car. From a technical point of view, much higher volumes are possible. Vehicles with considerably larger amounts of 20 kg natural and wood fibres have been successfully produced in series for years. The market development depends also on the political framework: Any incentive for the use of natural and wood fibres in the European automotive industry could help to extend the existing amount of 30,000 t/year for natural and wood fibres each. The vision could be an increase of up to five times, that means to 150,000 t/year for each fibre type – the technologies are ready to use. A great potential for bio-composites!

- Life cycle assessment of hemp fibre production and hemp products in Europe - including comparison to other natural fibres: Roland Essel (nova-Institut, D) presented the latest developments on hemp LCA.
- In 2014 a new LCA study will be published and the study will perform well concerning hemp insulation. Nova will conduct an LCA in cooperation with Stefano Amaducci (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, IT) regarding hemp insulation, heat protection and acoustic protection.

3. Studies, position papers

The Chairman presented an updated figure of the fibre price data.

4. Trade fairs and conferences, marketing support

The marketing activities conducting by nova as the executive office were presented and potential activities within the next year were discussed. EIHA will book an exhibition stand at the 7th International Conference on Bio-based Materials 2014 und will be part of the International Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBIB2014/15).

5. Financial report of the EIHA & exclusion of non-paying members

The financial overview over the past year was presented and the suggested use of this year's budget was not objected. Regarding the exclusion of non-paying members the decision was as follows:

Alberta Innovates Technology Futures	Cancellation of membership
Association Espace Eco-Chanvre et Fibres Vegetales	Sylvestre B. will remind
CDE	Sylvestre B. will remind
Chanvriere du Belon	Cancellation of membership
Ecofibre Industries Operations Pty Ltd.	nova will remind
GreenGran B.V.	Cancellation of membership
hemp BEO Ltd.	Cancellation of membership
Hemp Research Center, Institute of Industrial Crops, YAAS	nova will remind
House of Hemp Pty (Ltd.)	nova will remind
Industrial Hemp Association of Victoria	nova will remind
Institute for Research and Development of Sustainable Ecosystems (IRES)	nova will remind
Korea Hemp Institute	nova will remind
NuMax Fibre Technology Ltd.	nova will remind
Yunnan Industrial Hemp Inc.	Cancellation of membership

6. Exoneration and election of the Board of Directors & election of Financial Auditors

Exoneration: All present members had 68 votes together. The Chairman asked whether the Board of Director should be exonerated. All participants voted for an exoneration of the Board of Directors.

Election of the Board of Directors: All participants voted unanimously for a group voting. The result of the election of the Board of Directors was: The existing Board of Directors has been re-elected unanimously again.

The Board of Directors has been enlarged. We welcome Daniel Kruse (Hempro, Germany) as a new member of the board. His election was unanimously. Now, the Board of Directors consists of natural fibres experts and with the new member Daniel Kruse a new expert on hemp food and feed sector.

Election of Financial Auditors: Michael Carus and Bernd Frank were re-elected unanimously as financial auditors.

7. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2013/14

- Update www.eiha.org with Wordpress system
- New business cards & EIHA letter paper
- Next step on Sustainability Certification (ISCC) – in the framework of the EU FP7 MultiHemp project: The certification will be done - but who will pay it? A decision of the meeting was to support the certification with 5.000 EUR at a maximum if cooperation partners won't be able to pay it.
- Technical Workshop together with CELC for EIHA members & composites industry (has to be discussed on the next General Meeting)
- Meta LCA on Hemp fibre insulation (in the framework of Multihemp)
- Lobbying activities in Brussels: The executive office will update the strategy paper on industrial Hemp: "How can EU Politics support the European hemp industry?"
- Others:
 - EC Regulation 383/2013: THC update on measurement
 - Next General Meeting will be on May 20th 2014 in Wesseling, Hotel am Rhein, Germany.
 - Daniel Kruse: we need a new guideline concerning THC content and a guideline concerning growing of organic hemp seeds which can be used by farmers. To develop a kind of quality label could promote the whole hemp food industry. Daniel Kruse will send the executive office ma first draft in early 2014. Afterwards it will be discussed with the board of directors.
 - Albert Dun asked how to push the hemp shives, oil and protein market. A study could examine the market. Potential markets could be mushroom breeding, fish feed (proteins, oil), particle board industry. Next steps have to be discussed.

John Hobson thanked all participating members and all active hemp lobbyists for their ongoing work.