



Minutes of the 15th General Meeting of the

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

20 May 2014, 07.30 pm to 10.00 pm, Rheinforum, Kölner Straße 42, 50389 Wesseling, Germany.

Managing director of EIHA Michael Carus (hereinafter „Chairman of the Meeting“) took over the chairing of the meeting and opened it by 19:30 pm. He welcomed the participants and noted that the General Meeting convened and a quorum is statutory. Afterwards Michael Rachfahl was unanimously determined as a keeper of the minutes. Then a statement of the distribution of votes of EIHA members has been issued and announced the following agenda (highlighting the EIHA activities 2013/2014): A round of introductions of participants was carried out in advance with the reference to the board members, which were available for answering questions.

Agenda (new):

1. Voting.
 - Assessment of the votes.
 - Participants & votes of the 15th General Meeting of the EIHA.
2. Status report on EIHA and Hemp.
 - Present hemp industry.
 - EIHA – Board of Directors.
 - Additional regular members of EIHA in May 2014.
 - Hemp cultivation area EU.
 - Price index: Hemp and flax technical short fibres.
3. Looking back – EIHA activities in 2013/14.
 - Page in iBIB 2014/15.
 - CEN TC 411 Membership (travel costs to Brussels CEN Meeting).
 - Update Leaflet.
 - New business cards.
 - New letter paper.
 - Booth at 7th International Conference on Bio-based Materials 2014.
 - IT update for the EIHA web page (in WordPress).
 - List of potential main automotive customers.
 - Lobbying in Brussels: Structure and representatives.
4. Financial report of the EIHA.
 - Report on current financial situation.
 - List of non-paying members.
5. Voting on activities 2014/15.
6. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2014/15.
 - Financial outlook in 2014.
 - Additional activities proposed at the EIHA board meeting on 2014-05-20.

1. Voting

The Chairman introduced the participants with an explanation of the distribution of the votes. All present members had 110 votes together.

2. Status report on EIHA and Hemp

The Chairman presented an overview of EIHA and the European map of hemp production. In 2014, EIHA includes 10 regular members and 80 associate members, 73 members from European countries, 17 members from other countries.

There is a total hemp cultivation area of approx. 15.000 ha in the EU in 2014, with updated data from Slovenia and Croatia. He noticed that the legal framework is dictating the growing numbers. The difference to the previous years is the increasing number of countries cultivating hemp, especially for seed cultivation. The Chairman left space for questions from the audience:

One question concerned the EU subsidies and market development in comparison with and without subsidies. It was noted that the price of industrial fibres with subsidies lays at 600-650 EUR per ton. Without subsidies at about 700-750 EUR per ton. Competing products also recorded a price increase.

Regarding the price index it could be said that the index of flax from 2010 on significantly increased, while that for hemp left at a relatively constant level and only increases slightly. It is estimated that prices for technical fibres will remain stable in the future. A high potential for the cultivation of hemp could be identified for the USA and Canada.

3. Looking back – EIHA activities in 2013/14

The Chairman gave the word to John Hobson, who presented the on going lobbying activities in Brussels at the LMI and it's „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, FoodDrinkEurope).

- John Hobson (Plant Fibre Technology, formerly Hemp Technology Ltd., UK): As president involved in all lobbying activities. You can only be successful in Brussels as a group. The nova-Institut succeeded as a member of the Bio-based expert group last year. Food Drink Europe offered a seat for EIHA in their body, in addition to multi-national corporations.
- Sylvestre Bertucelli (InterChanvre, F): Focus on CAP reform, DG Agriculture and European Parliament, Ecological Focus Area. Demand for an integration of hemp in the "ecological focus areas". In France, this was rejected because of the costs. The existing regulations allow little subsidies, the European Commission introduces the criteria of the regulations in the list of the "ecological focus areas". Sylvestre B. will represent EIHA at DG Agri. And EIHA will continue the lobbying for inclusion of Hemp in the "Ecological Focus Area" (EFA).
- 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. And EIHA can become a business case for the "Bio-based panel". This opens up funding opportunities and possibilities to influence the introduction of new regulations (e.g. integration of hemp in "ecological focus area"). Also the MultiHemp project promotes lobbying activities. 9 million euros are to be spent on the establishment of new techniques and varieties. This could, inter alia, open up the possibility to establish product labelling, for example to identify and prove the proportion of hemp in certain products. A cooperation between actors from the U.S., Canada and the EU is therefore highly desirable.
- (Roland Essel & Lena Scholz (nova-Institut, D): EIHA is member of CEN/TC 411, Biobased products, Certification and Sustainability / LCA.). Michael C. will continue the membership and EIHA-representation at CEN TC 411, costs per year: 600 EUR.
- Daniel Kruse (Hempro, D) & Sylvestre Bertucelli (InterChanvre, F): FoodDrink Europe: two groups formed with Sylvestre Bertucelli, who dictates the guidance on the procedure in Brussels. Daniel K. will represent EIHA at FoodDrinkEurope, while Sylvestre B. will represent EIHA at Copa Cogeca. At this point, Michael Carus noticed that EU actors are constantly changing, which makes working in Brussels all the more difficult. It is a dynamic process.

A question thrown headed over to a discussion:

- Is the THC limit of 0.2% for industrial hemp under consideration?
There is no hint that any activity started. If member states will start such a process, EIHA support and guide.
- The next question concerned the analysis of THC residue levels in food and whether or how they are determined.
It was noted that EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) works in the field of feed, milk and meat creating strict rules and that a co-operation on this issue had just started.
- Jace Callaway asked in this context whether current information on the assessment of Hemp crops exists, since this is a very important issue and analyses with solid results had not taken place. He noted that the biggest problem is the selection of a suitable sample.

Although the question remained unanswered in the core, Michael Carus offered here that Jace Callaway could contribute as an expert to assist with Dr. Franjo Grotenhermen for the EFSA cooperation and will be asked for help in any questions concerning THC and CBD.

- The new EIHA leaflet was proudly presented. Total costs were 3,162 EUR.
- The subsequent question targeted the markets in which hemp is successful. This is especially the automotive industry. Other markets have to be developed and strengthened through marketing campaigns on various conventions and exhibitions (also in the U.S.).
- Andrea Herrmann made the offer to support the quality control of the new and future leaflets.
- Then the topic of advertising was deepened by the presentation of exhibition stands (Bernd Frank). The new “Business Directory of bio-based materials for 2014/15 (iBiB)” as well as sponsors and partners were presented. As a résumé EIHA could pull that the actor network is working better than ever.
- In 2014, a record number of participants at the EIHA Conference of more than 200 participants from 39 countries were recorded.

EIHA 2014: activities in 2014 and 2015

(Processing status: 14 May 2014)

Activity	Budget (net)	Processing status
New web page www.eiha.org with WordPress system.		Expected over the summer break. In progress.
Updated list of automotive customers.		Because of good fibre selling, this activity is put on hold.
Int. Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBiB 2014/15).	760 EUR	In print.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booth at the 7th International Conference on Bio-based Materials, April 2014. • Booth at the 8th International Conference on Bio-based Materials, April 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.300 EUR • 1.300 EUR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done. • In progress (organisation: Dominik Vogt)
Update leaflet/new leaflet.	3.162 EUR	Done.
New business cards for board of directors & EIHA note paper (nova).	760 EUR	Done.
Bioeconomy panel, case study “Hemp” by Michael C.		In progress.
Hanka Gabrielova & Problems with customs.		In progress: John H. (& Michael C.) will prepare a short answer.
EFSA Hemp seed & leaves in feed and food: We will fight on the right		In progress: Jace Callaway, Anndrea Herman, Stephano and Franjo Grotenhermen will be

(scientifically proved) PMTDI – we will propose and create a scientific expert committee. John, H. and Michael, C. will prepare the next email.		included in the expert work. John Roulac and Dr. Bronner offered financial support up to two times 25,000 EUR. Eberhard Pirich (BIONORICA & Board member of the European Health Forum has excellent contacts to EFSA) and Bruce Cottrill (ADAS UK, already involved by EFSA) could potentially help us.
Sustainability certification for Hemp Fibres and other raw materials.		In progress: Decision for ISCC+; nova will provide offers. Starters: HempFlax, Planet Chanvre and CAVAC. Next interest from Celesa & Albert Dun. Michael, C. will ask all regular members. June 2014: Michael, C. asked 20 certifier from different European Countries for an offer. The procedure is complex and a nova expert will take over. Nova will prepare a total offer with costs for ISCC+, the certifier and nova-Institute.
Life cycle assessment (LCA) of hemp fibre insulation material – status MultiHemp.		In progress: Nova is working on this topic in the PEF group, in MultiHemp etc. – data support and cooperation with CAVAC, HempFlax and ThermoHanf.
“Carbon Footprint and Sustainability of different Natural Fibres for Biocomposites”, study will provide data for the automotive industry (nova offer, Michael, C.).	4.000 EUR	In progress: EIHA will support the study, additionally 4,000 EUR coming from two companies.
Cooperation with DNFI, webpages with Hemp information and data.		In progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with Hemp India and Conference. • Cooperation with World Hemp Conference, Slovenia. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sluggish progress; Conference did not take place. • In progress: Michael C. gave a short answer (low support, board cannot join); if someone wants to join and represent EIHA, please get in direct contact.
News on CBD utilization.		In progress.
Booth at the Composite Europe, Sept. 2014.	900 EUR	In progress: the costs of 3,900 will be shared by CAVAC, HempFlax, PlanetChanvre and EIHA (900 €), organisation: Florence Aeschelmann/Asta Eder/Dominik Vogt (=>EIHA booth).
New Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) for insulation materials; Support Michael C. as an expert of NF insulation material in the PEF group (but not EIHA as a full member for 5,000 €).	450 EUR per day and 50 EUR travelling costs to Brussels.	In progress: Michael C. started the discussion with the PEF group. No final answer.

4. Financial Report of the EIHA (see extra attachment)

The financial overview since the last general meeting in November 2013 was presented. Regarding the exclusion of non-paying members there was no decision. It was given the note to make the payments in a more timely manner.

The current balance sheet shows a value of 21.588.59 EUR and outstandings of 9.400 EUR. Total Budget in 2014/15: ca. 15,000 EUR.

5. Voting on activities 2014/15

All present members had 110 votes together. The Chairman asked whether to proceed with current and upcoming activities presented before. All participants support with their votes the proposal presented by the chairman.

6. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2014/15

See also table on activities above

- Financial outlook see presentation of the General Meeting page 34.
- Integration of hemp in "ecological focus area".
- Participation (form food expert group!) at EFSA.
- Fibres: Certification project under sustainability criteria, as to date no similar projects were carried out. (HempFlax / BaFa / CAVAC); e.g. for the automotive industry; LCA comparison of different fibres (CO2 footprint); Primary processors can benefit.
- Food: New guidelines regarding THC limits and Quality (experts have to work out qualitative criteria).
- Complete homepage of DNFI for hemp (Michael Rachfahl).
- Exhibition booth at the "Bio -based Europe": cooperation of three companies under the umbrella of EIHA.
- Insulation: PEF (Expert Group with Michael Carus for natural fibres to monitor new regulations and their verification); Products should provide information about their CO2 footprint.
- A question was mentioned attending the Expo Milan 2015 (Nutrition for the World, to represent hemp food), which was rejected due to high costs. Andrea Herrmann presented a proposal of a Canadian booth.
- More information for and more integration of all regular members.

A free panel discussion concluded the General Assembly. John Hobson thanked all participating members and all active hemp lobbyists for their on going work.

Michael Carus
Chairman of the Meeting

Michael Rachfahl
Keeper of the minutes