

M i n u t e s

Of the 7th regular

M e e t i n g o f t h e M e m b e r s

On May 25th 2010, 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Rheinforum, Wesseling, Germany, of the

E u r o p e a n I n d u s t r i a l H e m p A s s o c i a t i o n e . V . **H ü r t h / G e r m a n y**

- TOP 1: Update on EIHA and hemp cultivation in Europe
- TOP 2: Annual report and new activities 2009-2010
- TOP 3: Financial report 2009-2010 (As of May 20th 2010)
- TOP 4: Presentation of the new project „LCA-meta analysis for hemp fibre products“

TOP 1: Michael Carus gives an introduction to EIHA and its status, main activities and financial situation and outlook to new activities. He showed new data on the cultivation area in the European Union for 2009. According to these data, there are about 15,000 ha of industrial hemp in the EU. Main cultivating countries are France, Netherlands, Germany and the UK. Data for 2010 are not yet available.

Contrary to the development of hemp, the flax cultivation area has been going down since 2004. The two main reasons are lower exports to China and the competition to bioenergy crops.

EIHA currently has 8 regular members (as a new member, Cavac from France has joined) and 63 associate members from 24 countries. This is a decrease of 5 associate members compared to December 2009.

The participant number of the EIHA conference 2010 has slightly decreased, which is partly due to the volcano outbreak in Iceland.

TOP 2: Michael Carus presents the annual report of the activities of EIHA in 2009 and 2010. A main focus of work was to increase the awareness of hemp as a bio-based material. This was done by participating in different exhibitions and trade fairs (Composite Europe, Hannover Messe, Electric mobility conference in Bonn). Furthermore, different publications have been produced (update of leaflet on hemp fibres, poster on hemp fibres in the automotive industry, leaflet on hemp seeds and oil, article in the „bioplastics magazine“, 22 pages on hemp in the „Biowerkstoff-Report“). A new project will be a leaflet on hemp life-cycle assessments.

Another focus is increasing the awareness of policy makers for industrial hemp (lobbying in Brussels, cooperation with other associations) and the industry. Biomass for energy now needs sustainability certifications, and producing such a certification also for industrial hemp would be a real incentive e.g. for the automotive industry to use hemp fibres. Furthermore, EIHA is currently member of a European working group to define the term bio-based and to measure the bio-based content.

TOP 3: Michael Carus presents the financial situation of EIHA: The annual budget is 24,000 € (8 regular members paying 1,000 € and 63 associate members paying 250 €). Of this budget, 12,000 € go to the nova-Institut for the executive committee. The financial situation is approved of by the attending members.

TOP 4: Michael Carus explains in more detail the planned LCA-meta analysis for hemp fibre products. All LCAs on hemp fibre products, and possibly also hemp shives products will be evaluated. The current budget for this study from EIHA is limited (7,500 €) and EIHA will try to get more budget from industrial partners. The results are planned to be published in a brochure by the end of the year. There are currently only about 5-10 good LCA studies which can be used, so the EIHA members are asked to contribute more studies to which they have access.