EIHA European Industrial Hemp Association

Minutes of the 13th General Meeting of the

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

on 21 May 2013, 7 pm to 9 pm, Hotel am Rhein, Auf dem Rheinberg 2, 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 7 pm. He welcomed the participants and noted that the General Meeting convened and a quorum is statutory. Afterwards Lena Scholz was unanimously determined as a keeper of the minutes. Then, the Chairman announced the meeting the following agenda:

0. Fixing the votes
1. Looking back
1.1. Status report on EIHA and Hemp (see also 1.3)
1.2. EIHA activities in 2012/2013 (12th GM and after)
- Information on enlargement of the Board of Directors
- Survey on industrial hemp production in Europe (see 1.3)
- Status lobbying in Brussels concerning CAP, LMI and more (Michael, John)
- EIHA representation at CEN TC 411 (Lena)

1.3. Studies, position papers
- Survey on industrial hemp production in Europe, main results
- Update of fibre price data

1.4. Trade fairs and conferences, marketing support
- Booth at Int. Conference of Bio-Based Plastics and Composites April 2013
- Updated list of automotive customers

2. Financial report of the EIHA
3. Exoneration of the Board of Directors
4. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2013
- Int. Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBIB2014/15)
- Update EIHA-Leaflet Fibres
- Update www.eiha.org with Wordpress system
- Next step Sustainability Certification (ISCC) – in the framework of the EU FP7 MultiHemp project
- Updates list of automotive customers
- Industrial Hemp DVD
- New business cards for Board of Directors
- Technical Workshop together with CELC for EIHA members & composites industry
- Lobbying activities in Brussels: next steps
- Others (e.g. Hemp World Conference, Membership Jute Association…)

0. Fixing the votes

Opposition to this agenda was not raised. The chairman asked everyone to present themselves (name, activity, company). All present members had 74 votes together.
Then, the following agenda items were completed:

1. Looking back

1.1. Status report on EIHA and Hemp (see also 1.3)

The Chairman presented an overview of EIHA and the European map of hemp production. In 2013, EIHA includes 10 regular members and 72 associate members from 31 countries, 65 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.
Cultivation of hemp is on its way to become legal in the US, which has a big potential for global growth. Participants from the US explained further details, that the situation is not all clear yet and there is still a lot of confusion currently. The signs are good but it has to be waited for the actual outcomes.
It was concluded that there should be a presentation on the legal situation in the US concerning plantation of industrial hemp at the next EIHA Conference 2014.

1.2. EIHA activities in 2012/2013 (12th GM and after)

- Information on enlargement of the Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors was presented and introduced. The members are: John Hobson (Hemp Technology Ltd., Great Britain, President of EIHA), Bernd Frank (BaFa Neu GmbH, Germany, 1st Deputy), Olivier Joreau (C.A.V.A.C Biomatériaux France, 2nd Deputy) and the two new members Mark Reinders (HempFlax, The Netherlands) and Sylvestre Bertucceli (InterChanvre, France).

- Survey on industrial hemp production in Europe (see 1.3)

There is a total hemp cultivation area of approx. 14,000 ha in the EU in 2012. A graph of the development of the cultivation area was shown. The results of the conducted hemp production survey is available to all members on the internal website.

- Status lobbying in Brussels concerning Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Lead Market Initiative (LMI) and more (The Chairman, John Hobson)

The president of EIHA, John Hobson took over to present the ongoing lobbying activities in Brussels and the Chairman presented the activities at the LMI and its "Expert Group for Bio-based Products". Sylvestre Bertuccelli gave an update on the activities in Brussels (CAP, general lobbying), handing out the information paper "facts on hemp".

- EIHA representation at CEN TC 411 (Lena Scholz)

A short introduction on the CEN TC 411 and its activities was given by Lena Scholz as well as EIHA's aims through this participation.

1.3. Studies, position papers

- Survey on industrial hemp production in Europe, main results
- Update of fibre price data

The Chairman presented the outcomes of the big Hemp survey (available at the EIHA website). It was mentioned that the future development of the market for industrial hemp and its products will depend a lot on the future political framework. Also there are lobbying measures taken by EIHA to include industrial hemp in favourable green agricultural framework ("zero group"), which was explained at a later stage of the meeting.

1.4. Trade fairs and conferences, marketing support

The marketing activities conducting by nova as the executive office were presented and possible activities within the next year were discussed.

Ms Bisterfeld von Meer asked whether it is possible to better link the EIHA members on the EIHA-website. It was stated that the possibility of including member information at a subpage of the EIHA-website already exists, interested members can just send their input to the executive office.

2. Financial report of the EIHA

The financial overview over the past year was presented and the suggested use of this year's budget (see number 3) was not objected. It was decided that EIHA should become a member at the Jute Association in case they admit to a membership exchange with no further costs for either side. The members were once again asked to send any video material on hemp they have, in case they are free to use.

3. Exoneration of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors was exonerated by all present members (74 votes) with no objections.

4. Outlook, guidelines and focus of EIHA activities in 2013

- Lobbying in Brussels – DG Agr, DG Enterprise, DG Energy
- Next step Sustainability Certification (ISCC) – in the framework of the EU FP7 MultiHemp project
- Page in iBIB: Int. Business Directory for Innovative Bio-Based Plastics and Composites (iBIB2014/15)
- Additional booths at Conferences and fairs
- Technical Workshop together with CELC for EIHA members & composites industry
- Membership Jute association
- Updates list of automotive customers
- Update www.eiha.org with Wordpress system
- Update EIHA-Leaflet Fibres
- Industrial Hemp DVD

A survey conducted within the project MultiHemp was presented together with the possibility to get a ISCC PLUS certification scheme completed within this project, which then can be used by all hemp producing/processing companies. Such a certification scheme is necessary because the automotive industry seeks for certified sustainable hemp fibres.
The record numbers of this year's EIHA conference were presented, at its 10th anniversary with 151 participants from 28 countries.
John Hobson thanked all participating members and all active hemp lobbyists for their ongoing work.

Michael Carus
Chairman of the Meeting

24.05.2013
Lena Scholz
Keeper of the minutes