Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the European Orchid Council, 13th Mai 2017, Gdansk

1. Welcome by Rudolf Jenny to all the participants. He warmly thanks Monika Lipinska from the Polish Orchid Society who organised with success the 1st International Orchid show in Poland and welcoms the EOC Board and members as well.

2. Present: Rudolf Jenny (SOF) EOC Secretary, Guido Diana (AIO), Carsten Hammer (DOG) Board, Inger Borg (SOS) Board, Vinciane Dumont (FO) (SFO) (AFJO) Board, Ari Matikka (FIS), Gabriel Van Winkel (NOV), Manuel Lucas Garcia (ODE) Massimo Morandin (FIO), Marc Dumont (FO), Erich Wildburger (OO), Walter Baver (WO), Monika Lipinski (POS), Laorlo Sipos ((Hungary) and G.Cramer (DOG)

3. Apologies : Emil Lückel, Philippe Lemaitais, Charlotte Dupont, Rik Neyrinck, Rob Hendriks replaced by Gabriel Van Winkel, Johan and Clare Hermans, Chris Barker.

4. Takes of minutes : Since Clare Hermans is not present, R.Jenny asks Marc Dumont to replace her.

5. Minutes of the meeting in Porto, March 2016: they are approved.

6. Report of finances is presented by Inger Borg : no comments and approved at unanimity. Inger is stepping down after many years of work at the EOC Board as Treasurer. Ari Matikka will replace her from now on.

7. The auditor's report, sent by Hans Christiansen : He approves the financial report for the accounts of 2016, so does the EOC members'

representatives. Hans has been our auditor for many years, he is now resigning and R.Jenny thanks him warmly for all his help to the EOC.

8. As no EOC member presents a candidate, the Board presents two possible auditors: Pedro Spinola, from Portugal, Madeira and Marei Karge, from Germany. It was decided to ask Rudolf Jenny to call Pedro first to see if he accepts such a job and if not to call Marei. We will let you know who accepts.

9. Members :

- Fees: 25 members paid their fee, 6 have either paid cash at the AGM, or either will receive a reminder.

- Changes:
  the Dutch Orchid Society (NOV) changed representative, Gab van Winkel was present at the AGM.

- **Are no longer members**: Orchid Club of Rumania, Orchideenfreunde Dortmund,

- The Swiss Orchid Foundation will probably cease to exist in a few months.

- **New members** accepted by the AGM: Federation Italiana de Orchidea, from North East of Italy. They seem very active orchid growers and will be present at the EOCCE in Paris.

- Orchidarium Estepona: Manuel Lucas made a beautiful presentation on the orchidarium which hosts more than 3000 different species on bark and still have 1000 to be mounted. They will be present at the EOCCE in Paris as well. The City Council Management who takes care of the orchidarium and their public gardens, wishes to make it well known in Europe.

- Polish Orchid Society: they made a late application, it is a mix of

scientists working on orchids and amateurs.

10. Status of EOCCE 2018, Paris : presented by Vinciane Dumont. The website is online now**: http://eocce2018.com** and she recommends each member to make that information known by their members and by all orchid lovers. Some English translation are still undertaken. The website shows how much work has been done.

11. Proposal Financial Support EOCCE
: The Board had decided during their meeting the day before to send some of their members, experts in such large events, in Paris on May 29, to help them in the organisation of the last months of work before March 2018. They will take their sponsoring decision after meeting them.

12. EOC-Website: Carson Hammer explains to the new members how the EOC website works: it is only if he gets the information by E-Mail that he can put it online. It means that all the Society members are responsible and the more news you give the more interesting the website will be.

13. EOC-Survey, proposals Ari Matikka : According to the EOC statutes "the chief goal of the EOC is to help Member Organisations and their individual members to exchange experiences and ideas in order to facilitate a common realisation of all activities concerning orchids."

14. To supplement EOC's present activities, this could done through:

- Workshops
- Training
- Webinars, Skype

- Data banks,

  organised by the EOC on subjects like:
- Acquiring new members: how?
- Ideas for meeting programs: only at local level, competing with Internet but often give wrong information
- Essentials of a good web site
- Keeping in touch with the members
- Organising a successful exhibition
- Training of judges: each country has its rules but at the end a gold medal plant will be a gold medal what ever rules you follow.
- Exchange of journal articles
- Recordings of top lectures : it exists
- Translation services
- A meeting for editors: much appreciated
- A meeting for chairpersons

15. It was agreed that the EOCCE in Paris 2018 would include at least a meeting for editors organised by the EOC and maybe a tutoring session for judging students before or after the judging.

16. Next board meeting will be in Paris may be early December 2017 (it has been changed) and AGM in March 2018 Paris during the EOCCE.

17. Any other items： Exchange of points of view concerning Ari's suggestions : very positive, everybody was very enthusiast and came up with ideas.