

EOC AGM Meeting 1st May 2022 via Zoom at 10.00 am (Central European Summer Time)

Present: G Diana (AIO) Board Member, E Domenica Esposito & guest (AMAO), M Dumont (FO), V Dumont (AFO) Board Member, R Hendriks (NOV), C Hermans (HOS) Minute Taker & Acting Secretary General, J Hermans (RHS) Board Member, L Ines-Conte (Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association), D Klein (SFO Italy), D Lafarge (FFO) Board Member, M Lipińska (FPOA), A Matikka (FIS) Treasurer & Board Member, M Morandin (FIO), F-J Richardt (DOG) President EOC & Board Member, P Spinola (Auditor) & M. Tonnarelli (Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association).

1. Welcome

The Delegates and guest were welcomed by Dr Hermans, she then gave a short description of the late Mr Jenny's contribution to EOC as Secretary General. Mr Richardt was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. Apologies

C Hammer Board Member, S E Hansen (DOS) and M Lucas-Garcia (OE).

3. Minutes of the Zoom AGM Meeting 8th May 2021 & Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Zoom AGM Meeting 8th May 2021 were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report 2021-2022

Dr Hermans summarised the activities of the EOC in the past year: the first successful Zoom AGM was held May 2021. In June EOC was informed EOCCE Copenhagen, due to be held in 2022, was cancelled due to lack of financial support and effects of Covid-19. Following the sudden death of Mr Jenny in August, Dr Hermans was appointed by the Board as Acting Secretary General in September. The Board met by Zoom in November 2021 and April 2022. The new EOC website was launched in February 2022. In March the EOC was asked to become a Founding Sponsor of the World Orchid Conference Trust. The 2022 AGM was the first election for a Secretary General, two societies applied to join the EOC and there was an application to host the 20th EOCCE in 2027.

5. Financial Report

Mr Matikka tabled the spreadsheet of Membership Fees and 2021 Financial Statement. The AGM unanimously agreed to accept the 2021 financial statement.

It was unanimously agreed to request this year's fees and to offer the option to pay for two years.

Those who had already paid in advance would not be invoiced. (Orchideeën Vereniging Vlaanderen; Fondation Orchidée; Schweizerische Orchideen-Gesellschaft (x2); Swiss Orchid Foundation (x3); Dansk Orchide Klub; Association France-Orchidées; Royal Horticultural Society; Magyar Orchidea Társaság; Associazione Italiana di Orchidologia (x2) & Federazione Italiana Orchidee).

To ensure compliance with Swiss law Mrs Dumont's address in Switzerland will be the official address of the EOC and to reduce bank charges she will be a signatory for the PostFinance bank account. Her address will be included in the Minutes as a Confidential Appendix not for publication.

The AGM was informed that the Secretary General and Treasurer will investigate moving the EOC Statutes and bank account from Switzerland to perhaps Germany.

Mr Matikka and Dr Hermans reported they had no reply from Norsk Orkidéforening (NOK) regarding their unpaid 2019 subscription but noted their website was active. It was agreed Mr Matikka would send them one more invoice and if there is no reply, they will be considered resigned at the 2023 AGM.

Dr Hermans thanked Mr Spinola and Mr Matikka for their work on the accounts.

6. Members

Dr Hermans passed on Mr Hansen's thanks to the Delegates for their support with EOCCE Copenhagen and stated he has retired as Chairman of the Danish Orchid Society.

The Associazione Meridionale Amatori Orchidee (AMAO) and the Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association, Italy applications to join EOC were unanimously approved.

7. Vote on Process to accredit EOC member Societies' Judging Systems

The proposal for accrediting EOC member Societies' Judging Systems was adopted unanimously. See Appendix 1

8. EOC Website

Dr Hermans thanked Mr Hammer for his work on the EOC website since 2011.

Dr Hermans then thanked the Finish Orchid Society for agreeing to host the EOC website for free.

Mr Matikka reported the website <https://europeanorchidcouncil.eu/> was now fully transferred. He requested Delegates to send him suggestions for improvement.

It was agreed to get more content for the Events Calendar to make it relevant as it was considered an important part of the website.

Mr Matikka reminded Delegates to check their information was up to date.

Dr Hermans thanked Mr Matikka for all his work creating the new website.

Delegates were reminded the EOC Board would be interested in a volunteer to manage the EOC on social media.

9. Status 19th EOCCE 2024 Dresden (21st to 24th March 2024)

Mr Richardt reported plans were progressing well. Sponsors were confirmed and a new 5-year contract will shortly be signed with the organisers of the Dresden Show. The budget plan is for sponsorship and exhibitor fees to cover all the costs. The Taiwanese traders have confirmed they will attend the EOCCE in preference to a TIOS or WOC in Taiwan at the same time. The plans for the Organising Committee were progressing well.

10. Proposal 20th EOCCE 2027 FIO Italy

Mr Morandin presented a Power Point detailing plans for hosting an EOCCE in Florence in April/May 2027. Sponsorship was obtained and a logo and advert designed, and a website and Facebook page created. A successful first orchid show had been held in April in association with a handicraft fair, there were 20,000 visitors over the three days and 5-6000 for the orchid show. There was a lecture programme and links made with students working on orchid related projects. It was hoped there would be tours during the EOCCE to see orchids in the wild.

The vote was unanimous to accept FIO's application to host the 20th EOCCE.

11. Election of Secretary General

The vote was unanimous to accept David Lafarge's application to become EOC Secretary General.

Mr Lafarge presented a Power Point of his plans for the EOC. See Appendix 2 & EOC website.

He asked Delegates to contact him if they were interested in contributing to the EOC.

Mr Matikka suggested Delegates share experiences of marketing their societies and attracting new members.

Dr Hermans suggested as a first action asking Delegates if their societies were interested in contributing to the Orchisauvage <https://www.orchisauvage.fr/>, a model developed by the Fédération France Orchidées (FFO) for uploading observation data on native orchids.

Transfer of Chair

12. Election of New Board Member

Dr Hermans was unanimously elected as a new Board Member for a 3-year term.

It was noted following the AGM Mr Hammer retired from the Board and EOC.

13. Re-election of Board Members

Mr Diana, Mr Lafarge, Mr Matikka and Mr Richardt were unanimously re-elected as Board Members for a 3-year term.

14. Invitation to EOC to be Founding Sponsor of the World Orchid Conference Trust

Mr Hermans informed the AGM of the background to the old WOC Trust and the creation of the new trust. It was agreed (10 votes in favour, 1 against) that the EOC should be a Founding Sponsor of the WOC Trust.

Dr Hermans was unanimously elected as the EOC WOC Trustee for a 3-year term.

15. Next AGM Spring 2023

A suggestion was made to meet during the Dresden Show 30th March to 2nd April 2023 or at the show in Rome. Mr Diana agreed to explore the possibility of Rome with his committee and inform Mr Lafarge.

Mr Lafarge agreed to ask Delegates for further suggestions and then arrange a vote to be held by e-mail.

16. AOB

Mr Lafarge agreed to contact Mr Spinola about his CITES enquiry after the meeting.

Mr Lafarge thanked Dr Hermans for taking the Minutes.

Meeting closed at 11.50 am (Central European Summer Time)

Clare Hermans