

ETF General Meeting 2015

Minutes of the meeting

General Meeting 2015 was organised in Oulu, Finland on the 17th of May.

Attendance

Board members		Delegates	
Rafael Cetenera	President	Sari Mastromarino	SEry, Finland
Michiel Tilley	Secretary	Netta Lempiäinen	SEry, Finland
Florian Polenski	Treasurer	Franz Swarz	WKO, Austria
Daniel Salzer	Assessor	Georg Haslhofer	WKO, Austria
Matthias Fahrni	ETC® Committee	Jan Fredriksson	SZK, Sweden

Guests

Robert Stein	VDP, Germany	Martin Berndt	VDP, Germany
Zsombor Pünkösti	Hungary	Carsten Grobek	VDP, Germany
Alwin Probst	VNPS, Switzerland	Dominik Speleman	DZK, Denmark
Dirk Grundler	VDP, Germany	Jürgen Fiebig	VDP, Germany
Anne Jendrenki	VDP, Germany	Arne Becker	VDP, Germany
Bo Wessman	SZK, Sweden	Marko Väkiparta	SEry, Finland
Helen Fahrni	Webmaster, Switz.	Berend Koch	ETC® Committee

Voting

Country & votes	Delegate with Vote	Country & votes	Delegate with Vote
Germany (4)	Daniel Salzer	Austria (2)	Franz and Georg
Denmark (2)	<i>Given to Switzerland</i>	Switzerland (2)	Matthias Fahrni
Finland (3)	Sari and Netta	Spain (2)	Rafael Cetenera
Malta (2)	No attendance	Sweden (2)	Jan Fredrikson
Italy (?)	No attendance	Czech Republik (?)	No attendance

Total of votes attendance 2015: **17 votes.**

Minutes GM 2015

1. Welcome – *President Rafael Cetenera (RC)*

13u30

Welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Word of secretary – *Secretary Michiel Tilley (MT)*

Pointed out that this meeting was held in accordance to the statutes. Named two extra voting counters: Florian Polensky (**FP**) and Daniel Salzer (**DS**). MT explained the voting system, according to the amount of members in the association. Every official delegate received a voting paper for easy counting of votes.

3. Minutes from the GM 2014 to be agreed – *Secretary MT*

Minutes of 2014 were read by **MT** in a short version. **RC** asked the attendants if they wanted to hear all the details of the minutes of 2014. This was not necessary. There were no comments nor extra questions.

4. Report from the Board – *President RC*

RC pointed out the necessity of the ETF for future needs. He spoke about last year's changes and accomplishments such as the appointment of a new president and secretary since September 2014. The board is renewed in the last years and has new young blood (Assessor, Treasurer, Secretary). He complimented Matthias Fahrni (**MF**), Ari Puolakoski (**AP**) and Berend Koch (**BK**) for the outstanding organisation of the ETC[®] 2015. **RC** told about the contact with FACE (European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation) this year and said this contact needs to be continued in the future.

Then he told about the new commercial banners on the website of ETF. This is a new source of income and makes the website more interesting for all European taxidermists. **MT** and **DS** pointed out that this work is being continued and there will be more links in the coming weeks and months.

5. Treasurer's report 2014 – *Treasurer FP*

FP told the attendants in a short version of the report the most important income and expense of ETF. He asked the attendants whether they wanted to hear all, but this was not necessary. He gave the complete detailed report around in the meeting and everyone had the chance to take a look.

In 2014 the 10 country members and the 11 individual members paid all together 3.765 euro. In the beginning of 2015 VVP (Belgium) stopped his membership of ETF due to the collapse of the association. **FP** pointed out that the Czech Association has not paid its membership since 2012. The board has decided to start the procedure of eliminating this association out of ETF. If they will not pay the required amount their membership will stop on the 31st of December 2015.

This lead to the discussion about the loss of different associations who do not want to be member of ETF anymore. This point will be discussed in the AOCB (Any Other Competent Business).

The treasurers report can be found in attachment with the 2015 Minutes.

6. Report from the Financial Control Committee - *Robert de Buysere & Vagn Reitz*

MT pointed out that Robert and Vagn could not attend but sent their report to him. Both of them controlled the treasurer's report of 2014 and found it to be complete and without mistakes. They both confirmed the bookkeeping to be correct.

7. Report from the ETC® Committee – MF

MF had a very clear and comprehensively report *that can be found in attachment with the 2015 minutes*.

8. The regulation of collaboration between ETF and ETC® - MF

MF gave a short explanation of the new regulations between ETF and ETC® in which ETC® has more freedom to make quick decisions without the need of approval by the ETF board. This has been decided by the ETF board last year and is brought to the GM for final approval. **MF** asked if anyone had any questions about this matter, there was no questions. **RC** asked for voting and with a count of **17** votes (all) in favour, the new regulation is approved by the meeting.

9. Farewell of Vice-President Christoph Meier and election of new Vice President

RC said thanks to Christoph Meier (**CM**), who could unfortunately not attend the GM, for his big contribution to the ETF. **MT** told the attendants of the meeting what the board had done to thank Christoph for his great work. To give such a good president and vice-president a deserved good bye, the board searched for a Puffin skin to give as a present for **CM** since this is his favourite bird. After a long search for a puffin with papers, given to us by Vagn Reitz, we gave the Puffin to **CM** earlier in 2015. The attendants gave a big applaud for **CM** as a symbolic good bye.

DS took the word in the election process of a new Vice President. He pointed out that the main structure of the members of ETF is divided in taxidermists who work for private clients (mainly hunters) and museum taxidermists. Since there is no museum taxidermists in the board of ETF if **CM** would stop his board work, **DS** said it is a necessity to have a new vice president out of the museum world. **DS** has been searching for a good new vice president and found Jürgen Fiebig (**JF**) to be the right person for this job. He and other (board) members had talked to **JF** before the meeting to convince him. **JF** feels ready to try this job and when **RC** asked for a volunteer for the job, **JF** raised his hand and volunteered. Since no other attendant raised his hand, the meeting voted for the election of the new vice president. There were **17** votes in favour so with a full approval of the General Meeting, **JF** is being elected as the new Vice president of ETF.

10. VDP issue – bad skin quality of African skins – Martin Berndt (MB) and DS

MB brought this issue to the GM. He has gathered a group of 12 (German & Dutch) taxidermists who want to make a change about the bad skins coming from Africa. He doesn't mean slippery or big holes but it is the 'dipping' what is the real problem. This is a practice in which the companies dip the raw or dry skins in a solution of formaldehyde before sending to Europe. Dipping is necessary but not with Formaldehyde which makes the skins unmountable. And **MB** said that it most often occurs on the 'expensive' species such as Sable antelope. It occurs less frequent on 'cheap' trophies.

The idea of the gathered group is to collect names of the taxidermy shops in Africa where the problem occurs so the base of the problem can be found.

MB asks ETF to support this group. He asks for other taxidermists to join this group and collect info (names) when problems occur in a central point. There could be made a list of companies who bring in bad skins. Alwin Probst (**AP**) said it might be dangerous to do this and make this list. He suggests to make some sort of Certificate (ETF Certificate) to mark the 'good' companies. There could be made a paper with how we would wish to have the skins being handled. **MB** reacted on this with the information how to recognize Formaldehyde-dipping on African skins.

Carsten Grobek (**CG**) suggests to write the companies a paper with the warning that we would want to make a 'black list', as a sort of warning to stop them dipping in Formaldehyde. Dominik Speleman (**DS**) suggests to make a 'green list' of hunting companies who do it the right way and communicate this to our clients. Speaking to African companies will not help (**DS**), it is the European hunting companies who should send their clients to good places in Africa. MB thinks this does not work. **DS** suggests to have also an 'in between list' instead of only a green or a black list.

Rafael Cetenera (**RC**) explains that some taxidermy companies in Africa make bad quality export products. He thinks a 'black list' is good IF it is not visible! He finds a 'green list' a good idea too, which could be brought out (published) some time. He suggests ETF can do something. The first thing to do now is to collect info. ETF will send out a mail to all members with the question to report all problems to ETF. **RC** suggests to mail to the African taxidermy associations to ask if they have the same problems and possibly to ask for help. **RC** thinks a certificate is too difficult. There is a need to do control on regularly basis the certified companies and this would be good, but is too difficult and expensive for ETF. Therewith this discussion was closed.

11. VVP issue – Belgian market concerning biocides – European regulations – MT

MT explained that the former Belgian taxidermy association (VVP) had an invitation of the Belgian government concerning the Belgian market of biocides used in taxidermy.

Robert De Buysere went to this meeting in Brussels and reported the information to **MT** who brought it to this ETF meeting.

(**MT**) The Belgian government has done a research about which products are being used in taxidermy and how the regulations are (European regulations) to obtain these products and how these products can be obtained now. The result of this research is very concerning! There is none of the nowadays used products to preserve skins allowed to buy according to the European regulations. All products that are on the market now in all taxidermy suppliers in Europe are not registered as should be according to European regulations. This is the result of their research. **MT** explained that is very likely that Belgium will once (within this and 20 years) start with applying these rules in Belgium. And all other European countries will once upon a time have to follow up with this regulations. So for now there is not a problem, but in the future there will be! **DS** said that there is no data sheets for all used products such as L1, eulan, mortanol. It doesn't exist but is actually necessary to keep together with the products in storage. **AP** said that in Switzerland there is special rules about chemicals. There they accept mortanol and eulan and they do have datasheets. But he said also that there is no more production of mortanol anymore. Bauer has now an alternative for this product. **RC** concludes this discussion with the suggestion to send any problems to ETF.

12. Date and venue of next general meeting

DS brought the idea to have the GM 2016 together with the VDP meeting in Berlin, April 2016. This meeting is organized by the Berlin museum of Natural History and **JF** (new vice president and chief taxidermist of the Berlin museum) said it would be possible to select this location for the 2016 GM. The exact date and place is to be announced later.

13. Any other competent business

AOCB 1: Treasurer job

DS explained that the bank account of ETF is in the Netherlands and being used by Leo Bouten since treasurer Florian Polensky has no rights to do the bank account transfers from his place in Germany. It would be possible to give the Treasurers job officially to Leo, who would be willing to do this. The only problem occurring than is that NVP (Dutch taxidermy association) is not member anymore of ETF and Leo is now individual member and would not be allowed to take up a board function within ETF. The solution for this problem is a change of the statutes to where board members could also be individual members. This matter will first be discussed within the board and if this change would be the case, it would be announced for the 2016 ETF meeting to make this happen.

AOCB 2: ETF member Payment

RC explains that the payment of member countries to ETF might be revised. It is known that the NVP quit the membership last year with the reason (among others) that it is too expensive. There could be made a difference within the country associations between professional taxidermists and amateurs. Then the countries could give the number of their professional taxidermists as membership-number and they will pay for these taxidermists only. **DS** said that VDP (German taxidermy association) is already making this difference between active and non-active members. They only pay for their active members. But this is not according to the ETF statutes which say:

Article 5 – annual fees:

§1 Each national members-association of the federation pays an annual fee for each of its associated members.

§2 Individual members of the federation pay an individual annual fee.

§3 The amount of the annual fees are determined by the general meeting.

§4 The General Meeting can decide on an exemption of such a fee, either entirely or Partly.

DS said that the Finnish association has the same problem. They pay for all members, but this includes some free members too.

This matter has been closed with this saying. It will be brought up on next GM as an official topic.

At 15u10 the meeting was officially closed by President Rafael Cetenera.