

# 43rd EURAF Executive Committee Report

01 October 2014

**Report written by** Anja Chalmin, Mélanie Lamaison, Adolfo Rosati, Jeroen Watté, Robert Borek, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

**Present:**

5 officers: Rosa Mosquera Losada, Jeroen Watté, Adolfo Rosati, Gerry Lawson

6 countries represented by national delegates: Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Rep.), Felix Herzog (Switzerland), Robert Borek (Poland), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany),

Further: Mélanie Lamaison (AliénorEU)

Staff: Anja Chalmin

Apologies: Sylvène Laborie-Roussel, Anastasia Pantera, Konstantinos Mantzanas, Bert Reubens, Christian Dupraz, Patrick Worms

The quorum was achieved.

## ISSUE 1: EIP Focus Group on Agroforestry

**Rosa:** Thanks for all feedback on the proposal.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Suggests shortening the title of the document by only keeping the profitability aspect or adding more elements on sustainability, biodiversity and climate change in the text. The title should be more in line with the content.

**Rosa:** EU commission is putting emphasis on environmental aspects, so we will reinforce the environmental aspect within the proposal.

**Bohdan:** Then let's add this aspect.

**Rosa:** Deadline is today early afternoon (7 pm).

**Adolfo:** Fruit and other non-forest trees should be included to have a more comprehensive description of agroforestry.

**Rosa, Adolfo, Gerry:** Corrections from Adolfo will be sent to Rosa before noon. Final version to Gerry before 1 pm. File needs to be submitted before 7 pm.

## ISSUE 2: EURAF Accounting & Members

**Rosa:** EURAF is short of money. Christian will be asked for help to gain a better overview. If necessary, an additional meeting will be organized with the elected executive committee to discuss the issue. Sponsorship: No results from the expert mentioned by Dirk. Rosa researched web pages of big NGOs and found that opportunities for sponsorship could be reached by adding in the web page "Collaborate with us to support Agroforestry" \*make a donative. See the following example: [www.wwf.es](http://www.wwf.es)

**Rosa:** An updated list carried out by Anja of EURAF members is available (Table 1). It was noticed that there was a reduction in the number of EURAF members. National delegates should search what happen and if it is possible to find out why people didn't pay fees/left EURAF.

**Adolfo:** Research why members left is a good idea. National delegates could send out letters to former members, to communicate that we would like them to join again.

**Rosa:** We can also use one of the next newsletters to ask them to join again.

**Adolfo:** Is there a timeframe when we run out of money?

**Rosa:** Yes, but I would like to confirm with Christian, before presenting the data. The main problem is that AFORWARD transfers some funds to EURAF at the end of the project. However, there are some contract agreements that has been signed before the AGFORWARD project ends.

**Adolfo:** Is advertising space on our website an option? Was a final decision taken regarding this point?

**Rosa:** Working group on sponsoring needs to be put into place. Rosa will send an email to get the group started.

### ISSUE 3: Festival organization

**Rosa:** Different options have been discussed during last week's EC meeting. Activity should be attached to an already existing festival as there is no money available in AGFORWARD for the festival.

**Adolfo:** Within AGFORWARD there is money budgeted for events. Institution can spend money and will be reimbursed later-on. The problem is that other activities, e.g. dissemination events, need to be covered with this budget as well. It should be clarified with AGFORWARD why we are without budget for the festival.

**Gerry:** Let's have events on national level organized to save costs.

**Rosa:** Thanks for all suggestions. The Marciac festival could be an option, but this option needs to be clarified very soon.

**Adolfo:** We should consider Marciac as one option. And consider 4 or 5 events on national level in AGFORWARD's major countries. It's not realistic to organize an event per member country.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Marciac is a French Jazz festival, looking at Agroforestry during 2 festival days. This is a famous event and taking an active part in it would give visibility to EURAF. This is a good option.

**Adolfo:** Maybe AFAP could help us economically if we support the organization of Marciac?

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** EURAF could bring a more European focus to the event.

**Rosa:** The festival is completely in French, that's why it was suggested to go to other places than Marciac.

**Andrea Pisanelli:** Regarding an event in Italy: No reactions yet.

**Adolfo:** One reaction from Italy was that organizing a festival without budget is not possible. Language-problem & Marciac: We can add international aspects, but we cannot afford to fly in farmers with the available budget, as done by other institutions. This problem would be the same no matter where we have the festival, so we might as well go with the Marciac event.

**Rosa:** She will talk to Fabien. As well to AGFORWARD regarding the money issue.

→ **Please communicate to Anja, if you are interested to organize a festival**

### ISSUE 4: Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) meetings

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Mélanie asked Copa-Cogeca (CC), a key influential organization, to get in touch with Rosa.

**Rosa:** Informed that CC has several groups contributing to each CDG and preparing each CDG meeting, e.g. for arable crops they have different sub-groups. Rosa forwarded information about payment issues to all people of the EC.

**Jeroen:** Please see Mélanie's report for the issues discussed during the first CDG meeting (arable crops). Jeroen stayed for the afternoon: not interesting, mostly on world trade of sugar, presenting figures, nothing on sustainability or agronomy. Many people left throughout the afternoon. Future CDG's will be structured in the same way: Afternoons will be crop-specific.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Contributing to the strategic agenda is very important. Agroforestry should be put forward as a horizontal issue. Furthermore, EURAF should identify the most relevant sectors in the CDG on arable crops and for these ones, suggestions should be made. Having agroforestry included in the CDG on arable crops would allow bringing the sustainability and farming issues to the agenda, which otherwise could be too market oriented.

**Jeroen:** Let's use the advantage of having 2 places: in case that needed we can send a generalist and a specialist. Offer to organize a meeting with EEB (Faustine Defossez), and Birdlife (Trees Robijn) to discuss strategy in CDG's. We should use the opportunity to influence the scope of the meetings – to make sure they are less market-oriented, otherwise meetings might not be used to bring in our goals at all. Regarding the animal production CDG group some ONG involved informed that they can forward our ideas to the group.

**Rosa:** There are options to bring EURAF in as an observer to the animal CDG.

**Jeroen:** Bringing in observers might not be possible, participation is limited to those with seats to attend. We should link with other EU group, e.g. related to animal welfare; this is also an opportunity to share our concerns.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** She is in contact with BeeLife, CC. Let's use all options to participate in the meetings and let's discuss strategy with both NGOs and farmers' organisations

**Jeroen:** Let's fix a date for the meeting.

**Rosa:** Good idea to have such a meeting. Let's organize the meeting when I am in Brussels next time. We need to discuss who is going for which group. The original schedule has been changed, dates for CDG –meetings were partly moved.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** The draft strategic agenda of the CDG on arable crops will be circulated by CC within 15 days. Consequently, EURAF should send its contribution by middle of next week.

**Rosa:** Christian & Dirk will be asked to draft the contribution.

**Jeroen:** 2 CAP reforms have included agroforestry and the topic was not reflected in the advisory groups, but should be considered in the CDG groups.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Sustainability aspects and Agenda 21 should as well be considered in CDG's.

**Rosa:** Created a Dropbox for CDG-files and shared the codes. All files are provided last minute by the Commission, only the provisional dates are available.

**Jeroen:** Information will always be sent last minute. Emails arrive in Rosa's mail account. Rosa has to judge whether an email is urgent/important or not.

**Rosa:** Next CDG (arable crops) on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Rosa asked Dirk and Christian to participate.

**Norbert:** He would like to go, but he is not able to come this time.

**Rosa:** We should organize a list of people, e.g. 8, to prepare the meetings. Would anyone else be able to go on October 13<sup>th</sup>? No positive reply. Rosa will ask other national representatives. 4 scheduled CDGs in November. Rosa will ask Christian & Dirk for the arable crops group. Gerry and Rosa will join the climate change /rural development groups. It would be good to share the task in future.

**Gerry:** How about the meetings highlighted in red?

**Rosa:** These meetings need clarification with the organizers. She will contact them and circulate results.

## OTHER ISSUES

### Agroforestry meeting in Poland

**Robert Borek:** Agroforestry meeting in November is postponed to November 25/26. It is organized by two national institutes in Poland. Stakeholders from the public/policy/NGO sectors are invited too. Is EURAF able to participate/join?

**Norbert:** We should discuss this with Dirk & Christian (BTU Cottbus) – one of us should go. Is anyone else interested to come?

**Bohdan:** Sounds interesting. Please provide further information, Robert.

**Robert:** Meeting is organized in Pulawy. The first part is English, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day exclusively Polish. It would help to have EURAF participating in the official part.

**Norbert:** Being around is part of our job within the AGFORWARD project. One of us should go. Please send a draft for a timetable and further information as soon as possible.

**Robert:** More information will be provided next week.<sup>1</sup>

### Rural Development Programs

**Gerry:** Implementation of Rural Development Programs – when to expect the results?

**Rosa:** I have a meeting on this with Norbert today afternoon. We are currently analyzing what happened with Pilar I and Pilar II and agroforestry. Jabier and I are working on it. When we have a draft, we will circulate it. However, we cannot analyze the final documents of the 2014-2015 Rural Development Programs.

**AliénorEU (Mélanie Lamaison):** Will have a meeting with DG Environment which is assessing, jointly with DG Agriculture, the draft Rural Development Programs. Most final versions of RDP's available not before Nov/Dec.

**Next EURAF EC meeting:** November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

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<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Conference day: Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Morning will be held in English, afternoon in Polish language.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Day: to set the Polish Agroforestry Association into place).

Table 1: EURAF Membership figures

<b>EURAF membership figures</b>	<b>Members 2014</b>	<b>Former members</b> (member in 2012 / 2013, but not in 2014)	<b>Members in 2012</b>	<b>Remaining 2012 members</b> (in 2014)
Belgium	21	27	36	14
Czech Republic	10	0	1	1
France*	67	60	60	9
Germany*	20	16	15	6
Greece	17	13	30	17
Hungary	3	0	0	0
Ireland	2	2	4	2
Italy	28	2	12	11
Kosovo	10	0	1	1
Poland	1	0	0	0
Portugal	20	2	9	7
Spain	29	22	32	10
Sweden	20	1	1	1
Switzerland	6	1	5	4
The Netherlands	10	3	5	4
UK	15	36	29	8
Further*	6	15	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>96</b>

\* Latest update not yet available or not yet fully completed.