

55th EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 2th September 2015, 12:00-14:00 pm

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

Officers: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Adolfo Rosati

National Delegates: Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic), Fabien Balaguer (France), Konstantinos Mantzanas (Greece)

Invited: Patrick Worms (ICRAF)

Apologies: Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Bert Reubens (Belgium), Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Joana Amaral Paulo (Portugal), Mike Strachan (UK), Robert Borek (Poland), Xavier Devaux (France)

1. EURAF Accounting

An update of the accounting situation was provided by Rosa. EURAF accounting situation is fine. Anja was finally paid. However, there are minor problems with the payments of Sylvie, Christian, Rosa and the company in charge of the Expo-Milano event because their bank accounts are not included in the bank system of EURAF account. However, Rosa will try to resolve this problem with Sylvene, Joana and Christian as soon as possible.

ACTION: Rosa will solve the pending payments of EURAF together with Sylvene, Joana and Christian.

2. EURAF Projects

EURAF is pending in the following calls without adopting co-financing, and not final results are known from the following:

- COST ACTION (Leader: USC): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution
- WATER (Leader Cottbus): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution (call one preproposal (21 April)).
- ISIB (Leader: USC) (1 stage): an interesting project dealing with the implementation of innovations of agroforestry systems in Europe.

We are still preparing the following two calls:

- Pilot project: Rosa reminded us that the proposal has to be submitted by 21 September. The leader of the project will be the USC with the collaboration of the PEFC and the EFI. A draft proposal is currently being reviewed by the project participants. Rosa said that this project is not a research project because it is a contract and therefore its final justification is

different. The general objective of the pilot project will be to describe the main types of agroforestry products in Europe and explore the use of EU-wide label after the evaluation of the supply chain of already existing agroforestry products to increase the awareness and knowledge of this products coming from sustainable land use systems for both consumers and farmers. The selected products for this project are those specially identified by the call (honey, mushrooms, berries and medicinal plants). The following products are specifically excluded in the call: (1) perennial crops such as fruit trees and olive tree systems grown on agricultural land where agricultural tree species are combined with crops or animals; (2) animal products from cattle management operations (e.g. farmers that move their cattle from the low grasslands to the surrounding forest areas or to the highlands for grazing during the summer months) and (3) timber. People from the EC think that it is a pity that these products are excluded in the call but maybe we could ask Melanie if it is possible a new call with new agroforestry products excluded in the current call. Rosa also said that at the end of August the budget of the pilot project was drastically reduced by more than 50%. This means that the maximum budget of the call is 450000 euros instead of 1 million euros but with the collaboration of AGFORWARD we can make a good and interesting proposal. Adolfo asked to Rosa about the participation of Christian in the pilot project and Rosa said that Christian will be with us in the project. Rosa also said that Christian contacted with the BIO Intelligence Service company and maybe this company could participate with us in the project but we have to take into account that the budget is low.

- Doctorate Program: Marie Curie Actions. A draft document will be prepared by USC, ISA and BTU.

AGFORWARD report: Rosa said that she prepared the intern report of AGFORWARD with the collaboration of the USC. It is a small report about the activities that EURAF has done in AGFORWARD in the January-June 2015 period. In the report Rosa have to put the person months of the different activities and she is making the numbers with her university and in collaboration with Joana, Sylvene, Paul and Kenisha.

Rosa asked to the participants in the meeting if they had new information about other calls and Andrea said that he and Robert are working on the second stage of a proposal about integrated systems that included agroforestry systems (SURPLUS proposal). Andrea said that EURAF could participate as stakeholder. Rosa asked if they need a letter of support from EURAF as this may benefit the project and also increase the visibility of EURAF. Andrea will ask to the leader.

Adolfo suggested that before including EURAF in a new project, EURAF members should send an email to the EC with a summary of the call and a list of the partners because it is necessary the opinion of the EC. The participants at the meeting were in agreement with Adolfo. Rosa mentioned that EURAF was participating in the first stage of the same call that was not successful, and for this Andrea probably did not ask before. All EC congratulated for the success to Andrea and agreed with the previous suggestion of Adolfo.

ACTION: If someone wishes to have EURAF in a project, please contact Rosa. Rosa will then inform the EURAF EC.

3. EURAF brochure

Rosa started the discussion by thanking Gerry his great job in the brochure in the last months. She said that a beautiful brochure has been produced. However, when the brochure was translated to French the French association suggested some changes. Gerry and Rosa talked with the sponsors of the brochure (Tubex) about this and they agreed to modify some things in the brochure giving extra time. Rosa and Fabien made some suggestions to improve the brochure: (1) make the brochure more linked to EURAF for future sponsors, (2) include the concept of biodiversity, (3) clarify a bit some definitions, (4) make clear that tree protectors should be used, but not linked to specific company. Rosa said that she has been reviewing the last emails of Gerry and it seems that there are several versions of the brochure with different right access, and Rosa did not to get the last version. Gerry explained to Rosa that the last version of the brochure is in Google docs. Rosa proposed to make a copy of the full text and put it in a word file to avoid problems with versions. Adolfo suggested that the best is that Gerry sent again the last version of the brochure to Rosa and Fabien and then Rosa could include in this last version their comments. A meeting between Gerry, Rosa and Fabien will take place later on.

ACTION: Rosa and Fabien will add their comments to the last version of the brochure that will be previously sent by Gerry

4. EURAF Events

- Marciac Festival: EURAF was represented in this event by Alain Canet, Fabien Balaguer, Rosa Mosquera, and Felix Herzog. The EURAF logo was prominent in the web page of the event, so Rosa acknowledges indeed the help of AFAF as this will allow EURAF to justify the activities of AGFORWARD. Rosa said that yesterday she had received some presentations shown in the event which are available in [YouTube](#). Rosa said that this link to YouTube could appear in the next newsletter.
- Expo Milano: Rosa said that Adolfo is organizing the event. Adolfo explained that Nuria, Joao and himself together with the collaboration of the Italian Agroforestry Association prepared most documents that can be seen in the EURAF web page. Adolfo explained the final economical offer which includes one coffee break in the morning, the cocktail and the interpretation service (5500 euros). Now, we have to select the menu between 5 possible options. Adolfo said that the Italian agroforestry association had offered a secretary for the registration of the people during the event. The Italian PEFEC is our sponsor in this event. Adolfo asked authorization to the EC members to use in his presentation some slides and photos prepared by them for some other event. Rosa said that Jaconette made a good presentation with photos in an agroforestry conference in USA and maybe we could ask her presentation. Gerry also said that Adolfo can find good presentations in the EURAF Google docs area. Gerry will send to Adolfo

and the other EC members the link to access the EURAF Google docs. On the other hand, Adolfo said that we have around 30 participants in the event, including the speakers. Adolfo suggested send a reminder with the Expo Milano information because the advertisement in the EURAF newsletter was published 10 days ago. Gerry asked to Fabien if AFAF minds to distribute the previous TUBEX brochure in the Expo-Milano event. Fabien as well as the rest of the EC said that they can be used. Finally, Fabien asked by the final version of the program and Rosa showed him the program on the [website of EURAF](#).

- AGROFE, Brussels. November (meeting next 8 September). Rosa said that she will be in the AGROFE meeting by Skype the next week where some discussion about the European Parliament event of the AGROFE project will be carried out. Bohdan is going to be present in this meeting. Bohdan did not have also any new about the parliamentary event. Patrick mentioned that this could be a good opportunity to announce that a EURAF PhD prize will be launched as he was discussing with Rosa. All EC agreed.
- UN climate conference event in December 2015 Paris (AFAF). AFAF is on charge of this event and Fabien will try to prepare an event. Rosa said that she was checking the information of the conference and the room price for two hours is low. Rosa said that we have to start organize this event because the event is approaching. Rosa will work with AFAF on this.
- 2016 EURAF meeting (Montpellier) (AGFORWARD). EURAF will be responsible for the scientific part as suggested by Christian. Rosa will contact Christian to see how EURAF can help him.

ACTION: Nuria will include the link to the presentations shown in the Marciac Festival in the next newsletter. Adolfo will continue organizing the Expo Milano event with the help of all. Rosa will participate in the AGROFE meeting the next week. Fabien will start to organize the UN climate conference event with the help of all.

5. EURAF Policy Activities

- Tamas query about eligibility
Rosa explained that Tamas, from the EU, is working in increasing the number of trees per hectare to make plots eligible for CAP payments. The main issue is that several EU member states have asked to increase the 100 trees per hectare limit. Rosa said that she was exchanging ideas with Tamas and Patrick by email about the maximum number of trees (and/or area) per hectare at which we could still say that this is agriculture and not forestry, in a rule which should be used at EU level. Rosa also sent the official EURAF document asking for 250 trees per hectare that was agreed by the EC. Rosa thinks that establish a concrete number of trees per hectare is difficult because the differences between forestry and agricultural land may be does not depend on tree density, but products obtained. She explained this was already discussed with the Commission when the CAP was elaborated mainly linked to tree density, tree canopy cover, age.... Patrick mentioned that the Tamas needs are not clear and further discussion is needed. When Patrick and Rosa get the concrete queries from Tamas they will contact the EC. Rosa

mentioned that she will try to get more clear information in the next Expo-Milano EURAF event. She together with Adolfo invited him, and Tamas will give a talk during the event without any cost for the EURAF. Moreover, the tree density also depends of the type species and we have to take into account that the agroforestry systems can be established in forestry and in agricultural lands.

- CDG Arable: Event in December AF and production

Rosa said that Christian and Fabien with the help of all could organize two hours session with farmers for the next general meeting of the Arable CDG provisionally announced for December. It is important to have farmers participating in this presentation about AF real life. All participants agreed that Alfredo from Portugal, farmers from UK and France and the participation of AFAF will be great. Rosa will keep in touch with AFAF to facilitate the event.

- CDG ARABLE CROPS: CROPS (cereals and rice) 22 September

An invitation was sent to EURAF EC members to participate in the CDGs. Nathan and Alan (if not possible, Fabien) will represent EURAF in this Arable CDG.

- 24-25 September meeting of the EIP subgroup Leader/CLLD subgroup member

Rosa will participate in the meeting of the EIP subgroup Leader/CLLD subgroup member, as the USC team is making an evaluation of those LEADER projects related with AF for the AGFORWARD project.

- 14 & 15 September Agriculture and LULUCF in 2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework: Review of Stakeholder responses to the Agriculture and LULUCF Consultation

Gerry put together our response to the above and will attend this event in Brussels to stress the importance of agroforestry for climate change mitigation and adaptation....He will also make the case for reporting on GHG emissions from an integrated Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) pillar as opposed to reporting separately on agriculture and forestry - as is currently the case.

- Focus Group: Deadline 7 September!

Indicative dates

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| 1. Emissions from livestock production | November 2015 |
| 2. Agroforestry / mixed systems / farms diversification | November 2015 |
| 3. Benchmarking farm performance (on sustainability) | December 2015 |

Rosa said that it is important for EURAF to have its members involved in all of them. The Commission will write reports from these focus groups that will affect for research calls, policy and innovation (operational groups). Rosa sent reminders and will send a reminder for this call.

ACTION: Rosa, Adolfo and Fabien will talk with Tamas in the Expo-Milano about the specific need of the query related to the maximum number of trees per hectare to make plots eligible for CAP payments. Christian and Fabien with the help of all will organize the December session of Arable CDG. Nathan and Alan (if not possible, Fabien) will represent EURAF in the Arable CDG (cereals and rice) of September. Rosa will send an email to the EC members with the links to the Focus Groups.

Reports and documents will be included in the EURAF CDG Dropbox as usualy. Rosa will follow up all these activities to help with the organization and link everybody.

6. EURAF Dissemination Activities

- ✓ EIP Newsletter: European Innovation Partners

Rosa said that the EIP newsletter asked us for any kind of good example of innovation. Agroforestry systems are not included yet and therefore it would be very interesting if someone can write something (see [here](#) for the latest EIP newsletter).

- ✓ EURAF Newsletter

EURAF newsletter is ok for September. Nuria is doing an excellent job with this. The newsletter will be send to the EC members around 15th September and a summary of the Expo-Milano will be included in the newsletter. At the end of September, the newsletter will be published in the EURAF web. In the last EC meeting Rosa proposed to make a rolling program for the next 12 months to define the responsibilities of different authors. The rolling programme should be circulated to the EC list in the next weeks. Rosa and Nuria appreciate the participation of everyone in the newsletter.

ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the Newsletter and the program.

7. EURAF Internal Activities

- ✓ Sponsors

The Italian PEFC delegation will sponsor the Expo-Milano event with 500 euros. This was obtained thanks to the help of Adolfo. Everybody acknowledge his efforts with the Expo Milano.

ACTIONS: all EURAF EC members should help to find sponsors

- ✓ EURAF web page

Rosa suggested that it is necessary for EC Members to check the EURAF web, and make suggestions for improvement. The website does not contain the EURAF logo and it is necessary to check the style of the different countries to be more consistent. Therefore, a decision is needed on this soon.

ACTIONS: all EURAF members to check the EURAF web and propose changes.

- ✓ EURAF lists update

Rosa and Nuria are working in the update of the EURAF lists because some people are appointed in the lists but they do not receive the e-mails. We have to be sure that everyone receives the information quickly. Rosa thinks that everybody should take into account that they may have activated the option of receiving e-mails every week or even every month. The e-mail list will be tested, but until everything is sorted out e-mails will be sent to the list of e-mails we have.

ACTIONS: Rosa and Nuria will simplify and update all the lists and they will inform about this to the EURAF EC.

✓ Memberships

Rosa said that we have received the payment from Hungary, Netherlands and Switzerland. We have received a total of 300 euros. This week, a person from Bulgaria will visit the USC and Rosa will try to promote the creation of an agroforestry association in Bulgaria to increase the EURAF membership. Bohdan asked Rosa about the payment of Czech Republic and Rosa said that the account did not show the payment on the morning. They agreed to check what happens as some delay between payment and money reception may happen.

ACTIONS: Rosa will send an e-mail to remind that the payment should be done

8. EURAF prize

Rosa thinks that the creation of the EURAF prize is a good way for making people aware of EURAF activities. The prize could go to PhD students or master thesis and degree thesis. With the prize we could increase the EURAF number of members if we make compulsory the condition of payment to opt to the prize. Rosa was talking with Patrick about the prize and they think that it is important to create the prize as soon as possible. However, before, it is necessary to get money to the prize and make it public. We could announce it during the AGROFE event in Europe because AGROFE is linked to education. Fabien and Gerry also think that the creation of the prize is a good idea.

ACTIONS: Rosa will see the possibility to announce the prize during the AGROFE Parliamentary session with Charles Burriel and follow up to get sponsors for it with the rest of the EC.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 7th of October 2015 at 10:00 CET.