



Pro Silva General Assembly Meeting 2021 and the Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Friday 9th July 16:00- 18:00 CET (15:00 - 17:00 WET, 17:00-19:00 EET) via Zoom

Attendance – Georg Frank, Eckart Senitza -President, Anne Crespin, Charles Debois, Stephan Hatt, Anne Hürzeler - de Turckheim- Treasurer, Igor Anic, Milan Hron, Tomáš Vrška, Niels Peter Jensen, Marc-Etienne Wilhelm, Jonathan Hulson, Bill (W.L.) Mason, Philippe Morgan - Vice-President, Hinrich Joost Bärwald, Hubertus Lehnhausen, Ioannis Spanos, Peter Csépanyi, Belá Varga, Liam Byrne, Pdraig O'Tuama -Secretary, Paddy Purser, Mauro Frattegiani, Massimo Stroppa, Valda Araminiene, Michel Leytem, Serge Reinardt, Daniel Steichen, René Olthof, Joao Paulo Fidalgo Carvalho, Jurij Diaci -Vice President, Dušan Roženbergar, Kristina Sever, Milan Saniga, Alexander Held, Mehmet Metaj, Nikolcho Velkolovski, Cvetan Nikolovski, Dorota Dobrowolska, Daniel Lemke, Maciej Pach, Florian Borlea, Gabriel Duduman, Mihail Hanzu

1. Minutes of AGM in Romania 2017- matters arising

Minutes from General Assembly meeting from Romania in 2017 were circulated before meeting – no issues were raised from the minutes of the meeting.

2. Proposed Changes to the constitution.

Details of following changes to constitution were circulated to all members with notice of the meeting. Eckart gave further detail and explained the rationale for the proposed changes and invited comment.

- Article 1: aim – “with a focus on Europe” / headquarter France (Molsheim)
- Article 2: admittance – more precise definition, associated members
- Article 3: annual subscription for full members, depending of ind.members
- Article 4: General Assembly, Board of Directors, Executive Board – virtual f.
- Article 5: General Assembly – NO election of the Board of directors (3 years)
- Article 6: Board of Directors – election of the executive board (p, 2vp, tr, sec)
- Article 7: Executive Board (3 years period), administrator, 6 additional appointed m.
- No changes Article 8, 9, 10 – numbers of articles changed.

(Note – An electronic vote procedure was enabled through ZOOM. Only Presidents of the 19 national organisations present were entitled to vote at the meeting)

The proposed changes were passed by a vote 19 for – 0 against. Anne Hürzeler - de Turckheim to notify court in Molsheim in France of the changes to the constitution.

3. Report of the President

Eckart outlined his participation in meetings and conferences on behalf of Pro Silva since the previous meeting. Eckart reported that there is growing interest in Pro Silva -Close To Nature form of forest management and there is awareness the requirement for integrated forest management for resilience and sustainability.

Participation in 16 meetings/conferences (since Sept.2019):

EFI Integrate Denmark, EC Brussels “*Forest for Biodiversity and Climate*”, ANW-AFI-Collaboration, EFI Integrate, EC Green Week “*Forests and Soils*”, EC Working group forest strategy, ELO, WSL Final Conference “How to balance forestry and biodiversity” www.forbiodiv.org, Mlinsek Memorial, “*World Wood Day 2021*” – keynote speaker (>800 participants), 8th Forest Europe Minister Conference (SK, virtual) – Panelist, Observer, Scientific Workgroup (Bo Larsen) for EU Forest Strategy – “*closer to nature*”.

Membership status –

20 full members: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK)

Members under development in Europe: Bulgaria (f.) Norway (f.), Albania, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo (f.= *formally existing, no activities*)

5 associated members outside of Europe: ACEF (Brazil), NEFF New England Forestry Foundation (USA), Forest Stewards Guild (USA), ForEco India (India), Les Amis de la Forêt Ouareau (Canada).

4. Report of the Treasurer

Anne presented the annual accounts for the 2017 – 2020 period outlining itemised expenditure and revenues for each year. There were deficits in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and a profit in 2020. Anne also presented the balance sheet for each year form 2017 – 2020. Balance at hand at the end of 2020 was €97,612.60.

It was agreed at 2017 AGM that a budget plan was to be provided for following year and agreed at annual meeting. Anne presented details of budget plans that were in place for 2019, 2020, 2021 also giving an actual v plan summary total. Anne presented proposed budget for 2022. Details of accounts and balance sheets are attached as separate report.

As Anne was standing down form the position of treasurer of Pro Silva, Eckart expressed his gratitude to Anne for her great work as treasurer and as liaison re constitution matters with court in Molsheim.

5. Approval of Financial Report and Executive Board

Vote on the Financial Report was approved by 19 -for / 0 against.

Jurij Diaci took control and called for vote on the President for the next three years. Eckart Senitza, Austria was the only person put forward for the position of President - Vote on Eckart Senitza as President of Pro Silva was approved 19/for / 0 against.

6. Election Board of Directors

As there was a change to the constitution Article 5 in the constitution to no longer require for the election of the board of directors at Annual General Meetings this item for the election of directors was not proceeded with.

7. Prolongation and Enlargement of “Pro Silva” Trademark (EU) – Anne Huerzeler

Anne outlined that the Pro Silva trademark presently only covered two classes, field trips and training. The trademark is due for renewal. The proposal was that use of the trademark be expanded to include ecosystem services, services to include the field of ecology and for information in scientific research. The item meeting was being asked to vote on was to agree on renewal and enlargement on the use of the “Pro Silva” trademark. Vote was approved by 18 for / 0 against with one abstention.



Pro Silva Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Friday 9th July 16:00- 18:00 CET (15:00 - 17:00 WET, 17:00-19:00 EET) via Zoom

Attendance – Georg Frank, Eckart Senitza -President, Anne Crespin, Charles Debois, Stephan Hatt, Anne Hürzeler - de Turckheim- Treasurer, Igor Anic, Milan Hron, Tomáš Vrška, Niels Peter Jensen, Marc-Etienne Wilhelm, Jonathan Hulson, Bill (W.L.) Mason, Philippe Morgan - Vice-President, Hinrich Joost Bärwald, Hurertus Lehnhausen, Ioannis Spanos, Peter Csépanyi, Iván Horváth, Belá Varga, Liam Byrne, Pdraig O'Tuama -Secretary, Paddy Purser, Mauro Frattegiani, Massimo Stroppa, Valda Araminiene, Michel Leytem, Serge Reinardt, Daniel Steichen, René Olthof, Joao Paulo Fidalgo Carvalho, Jurij Diaci -Vice President, Dušan Roženbergar, Kristina Sever, Milan Saniga, Alexander Held, Mehmet Metaj, Nikolcho Velkolovski, Cvetan Nikolovski, Dorota Dobrowolska, Daniel Lemke, Maciej Pach, Florian Borlea, Gabriel Duduman, Mihail Hanzu.

1. Minutes of 2019 Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Radlje, Slovenia.

Minutes from 2019 Annual Board of Directors meeting were circulated before meeting – no issues were raised from the minutes of the meeting.

2. Vice Presidents report: Jurij Diaci

Jurij reported on survey and web pool presented at 39th Anniversary Meeting at Radlje and a resultant scientific paper submitted to Forestry Journal “Continuous Cover Forestry in Europe: Extent, Knowledge Gaps and Challenges to Uptake” Mason et al.2021.

Jurij reported on the setting up of an initiative group for Research and Development projects with focus on Pro Silva / Close to Nature Forest Management. The group members are S. Bertin, J. Carvalho, B. Mason, F. Borlea & J. Diaci: Examples of topics to be considered are forest restoration, climate change adaptation, exemplary forests. Projected financial instruments for funding such research could be through COST or Interreg. Group are seeking a person with experience in management of grant application willing person to co-ordinate research projects.

Jurij Diaci and Joao Carvalho made two presentations to EU DG Environmental panel on Biodiversity Strategy. The panel wished to promote a position emulating natural disturbances / Closer To Nature forestry within the strategy. This was a great opportunity for ProSilva in that the PS principles are being recognised and that ProSilva have involvement in the preparation of the new strategy.

Phil Morgan: Phil spoke on fact that more people and organisations are becoming more aware and receptive of Pro Silva ideas and principles. Phil mentioned the requirement to be able to demonstrate the PS principles and practicalities of applying the practices in the forest to a wider audience and that we do have this through the exemplary forests.

As both Phil and Jurij are stepping down from vice-president position Eckart gave special thanks to Jurij and Eckart for their involvement in the Executive Board and service to Pro Silva.

3. Secretary's Report – Pdraig O Tuama

Pdraig reported that there were 4 meetings in 2019, 2 meetings in 2020 and 4 to date in 2021. Meetings were held roughly every three months, initially through SKYPE conference calls in 2019 and 2020 and through ZOOM calls in 2021.

The items on the agendas for each meeting were very much reflected the agenda for today's meeting. Comprehensive minutes are available for each meeting. Most ongoing communication between the board members is through intense mail exchange.

Pdraig notified the member organisations that he will be issuing request for Annual Reports for each country organisation giving list of Contacts – Presidents and Secretaries and activities.

4. Administrators Report -Alex Held

Alex reported on working on the relationship between European Forest Institute (EFI) and Pro Silva. There is more regular exchange and promotion within EFI especially through EFI's INTEGRATE + programme. Pro Silva issued a letter of support the EFI SUPERB project as associate project partner. There is now also a formal arrangement in place for Elisabeth Pötzelsberger, Head of EFI's Resilience programme to meet with ProSilva. Letter has to be answered.

5. Proposal of Executive Board Members

6. Election and Ratification of Executive Board

The following nominations were put forward as the Executive Board Members for the period 2021 – 2024

- **President** – Eckart Senitza (Austria)
- **Vice President** - Tomáš Vrška (CzR)
- **Vice President** - Dušan Roženbergar (Slo)
- **Treasurer** – Serge Reinardt (Lux)
- **Secretary** – Pdraig O'Tuama (Irl)

Vote on the nominations for new Executive Board was approved by 19 for / 0 against

7. Ratification of Membership of “Pro Silva Polonia”

A letter requesting full membership of Pro Silva was received from Polish Forest Society on behalf of Pro Silva Polonia. Pro Silva Polonia was established and operates as an autonomous section within Polish Forest Society.

Founding committee: *Dorota Dobrowolska, Daniel Lemke, Maciej Pach, Janusz Szmyt*

Vote on the ratification of full membership of Pro Silva for Pro Silva Polonia was approved by 19 for / 0 against

8. Ratification Associate Membership of “Tanes Tree Trust” (New Zealand)

A letter requesting associate membership of Pro Silva was received from Peter Berg, chairman of Tanes Tree Trust (New Zealand).

Contact Person – *Paul Quinlan*

Vote on the ratification of associate membership of Pro Silva for Tanes Tree Trust was approved by 19 for / 0 against

9. Proposed members of “Extended Executive Board – Appointment

The following nominations were put forward to serve as Extended Executive Board Members for the period 2021 – 2024.

- *Anne Crespin* (Bel) – Administrator, Contacts to Brussels
- *Alex Held* (Ger) – EFI Contact, Projects
- *Hubertus Lehnhausen* (Ger)– ANW contact person
- *Joao Carvalho* (Pt)– Mediterranean Region, Science, Brazil
- *Jonathan Hulson* (UK) – CCGF Contact Person, Media & Public Relation
- Pro Silva France contact person (*Sophie Bertin/Nicolas Luigi/Julien Tomasini?*)

Vote on the nominations to Extended Executive Board was approved by 19 for / 0 against

10. Requirements for PS associations production of Annual reports

Questionnaires have been sent out regarding each PS organisation’s Annual Reports. These reports request Contacts, Number of Members, Activities, News, Exemplary Forest (Cross Boarder Excursions). More response is required. Pdraig O Tuama will issue requests shortly again and will follow through on responses.

Newsletter – Please forward details of news, activities that are happening within PS organisation including photos.

11. Exemplary Forest -Eckart Senitza

Eckart presented brief outline of position on Exemplary Forests – There are 123 exemplary forests, 111.000ha. They vary in size from 2.0ha to 17.000ha and are situated in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Czech Republic, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland. We are hoping to receive proposals from Croatia, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, CCFG.

There is also the possibility of cooperation with AFI network of over 130 Research stands.

Eckart also presented list of projects where Pro Silva Europa members are involved:

12. Translations

Eckart outlined projects where Pro Silva publications were translated into various languages.

Pro Silva principles – originally in French, German and English now also translated into Spanish and Portuguese language

- 2012 – “Pro Silva Silviculture” French Version by Pro Silva Wallonie
- 2017 - English version (for Pro Silva Ireland).
- 2018 – German version “Pro Silva Waldbau”
- 2020 – Dutch Version, Hungarian Version?

Toolbox handbook in three/five languages - Guide to CTN Principles (PS Switzerland): German, English, French and Hungarian versions

13. Public Relations

Eckart gave overview on position on Public Relations and encouraged each member organisation to become more active in this area.

- **Pro Silva Logo** – New Logo implementation complete
- **Pro Silva Website**- Homepage available on three different links set up and running, receiving 500 hits/month – www.prosilva.org, www.prosiva.net, www.forestconservation.eu –
- **Social Media** – Facebook – to be managed Valda Araminiene (Pro Silva Lithuania) Twitter – managed by Alex Held and LinkedIn managed by Eckart Senitza
- **Scientific publications** (Jurij) – reviewed paper
- **Press Releases** 2018: “Weimar Declaration” 2019: “Radlje Declaration”
- **Requests from TV Stations/Public Radio**– *Alex Held has taken part in a number of interviews, Requests from National Television and media in Ireland.*
- **Interviews** about Pro Silva (statements from different countries) – Youtube, Homepage – 16 contributions from members

- **Newsletter Pro Silva** – Sendinblue – 2 Newsletters (May 2020, Sept 2020) – 712

14. Pro Silva Annual Meetings

- **2021 - Annual General Meeting** – Virtual online meeting held through Zoom. New executive board appointed and extended executive board appointed also to assist managing increasing board activities.
- **2022 – Annual Meeting in Luxemburg**
- **2023 – Annual Meeting in Ireland**
- **2024 – Proposals for 2024 - *Poland, Slovakia, Hungary***

15. AOB

Pro Silva Strategy 2030 +. This will be area of focus for new Executive Board to consider and work on and present at 2022 Annual Board Meeting in 2022.

Eckart closed the meeting giving thanks to all for their patience and participation in the meeting in this virtual format and look forward meeting everyone in person next year in Luxembourg. Eckart gave special thanks to Anna Browne, a member of ProSilva for organising and facilitating the virtual Zoom meeting incorporating an efficient voting procedure.

2nd August 2021, Pdraig O'Tuama (Eckart Senitza)