

The EFAEP Bulletin

News from the European Federation of Associations of Environmental Professionals



Greetings from the President

So there we stand, in the stairwell of the General Assembly venue in London. A very international group, and grown quite a bit since our inception in 2001. It was a good meeting, with a good dose of enthusiasm and inspiration injected by all present – and with a common awareness of how much work there is to be done to meet our goals. True, we are not yet *the* well-established representative of the environmental profession whose viewpoints cannot be ignored by ‘Brussels’ – though our name and purpose have become known in some relevant rooms in the Avenue de Beaulieu offices. And no, we still do not have a solid financial basis that allows us to invest deeply into work group activities – though our balance sheet is healthy and we work to find new funding sources. And yes, in our member associations only a small percentage of professionals are involved with EFAEP, but we have agreed on ways to improve that.

A key theme of the London General Assembly, against the backdrop of the ideas presented by a temporary ‘Network Working Group’, was one that is well-known from the management literature: what should go ‘top-down’ in our organization, and what should come ‘bottom-up’? As we discussed, in one way we are a ‘network organisation’. Our ‘content’; the issues we address, the professional knowledge we mobilise, and the mutual

contacts we establish, should be generated by those for whom we exist: the members of our members. It is they who can be dubbed the ‘nodes’ of the huge EFAEP network; they will drive what we do as a Federation, how we pursue our goals and which priorities we set.

But on the other hand, we are *not* a network like the internet, shapeless as it is with just nodes and wires and no identifiable centre, an instrument without a policy goal. No, we have clear purposes and thus may be more comparable to a brain-driven neural network – one that has a mind and a will, and the discipline to execute tasks serving them. And so, we reconfirmed that the General Assembly acts as the director and driver of EFAEP, with its subgroup called Executive Committee to serve as its conscience and memory. In that sense, we *do* have some things moving ‘top-down’ in our organisation: not purposes or content, but support where possible, reminders where useful, and exhortations where necessary.

This renewed focus on role distribution among the different bodies within EFAEP will certainly serve to increase our effectiveness and efficiency. And that will not only satisfy the team in the stairwell, it will also inspire many of our professionals in Europe!

Jan Karel Mak
EFAEP President



Report on the London General Assembly

The second General Assembly of this year was held in London on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 September 2009 and organised by the UK member associations; CIWEM, IEEM, IEMA and IES.

The General Assembly opened on the Thursday morning with a side-event on the London Olympics 2012 at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Three excellent speakers gave talks on different environmental issues relating to London hosting the games. Mike Sinclair-Williams, from the Olympic Delivery Authority, presented the issues relating to transport sustainability and the environment. Rob McCarthy, from the Environment Agency, spoke about how biodiversity is being protected and enhanced by the games. Richard Jackson, also from the Olympic Delivery Authority, finished off the morning by addressing the carbon, energy and waste issues relating to the London 2012 Olympics.

On Thursday afternoon there was a Secretariats Meeting, also at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. This was facilitated by Annette Hendlinger, with help from Mario Grosso. The main topics of discussion at the meeting were

communication issues, the ENEP database, and what EFAEP should actually be doing for its members, which was continued at the General Assembly.

I think it is suffice to say that everyone enjoyed the General Assembly Dinner held on Thursday evening at Just St James.

The General Assembly itself was held on the Friday at Grosvenor Offices. The main items on the agenda were the new offices at Mundo-B in Brussels, issues relating to the Working Groups, a proposed new vision for EFAEP (remember to get your ideas in by 18 November 2009), the 2010 budget which was approved, and the Executive Committee elections. Regarding the Executive Committee elections, Jan Karel Mak and Jim Thompson were both re-elected, as President and Treasurer respectively, and Bruno Weinzaepfel and Kristof De Smet were elected as new Vice-Presidents. Mario Grosso's position of General Secretary was not up for election. Matthias Friebel and Dominique Bernard both stepped down as Vice-Presidents and were thanked for their input over the years. The full minutes of the General Assembly can be found at: www.efaep.org/documents/topic/70/

The next General Assembly will be held in Porto, Portugal on 28 and 29 May 2010.





International
Organization for
Standardization

Cairo ISO Meeting

In order to better represent the interests of European environmental professionals, EFAEP's Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Working Group applied for and has obtained liaison status to the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) Subcommittee 1 of TC 207 and could therefore attend the meeting in Cairo on 21 - 27 June 2009.

TC 207 is the technical committee of ISO, dealing with Environmental Management. It is supported by several sub-committees (SC). SC 1 Environmental Management Systems has been responsible for developing (and is still responsible for revising) ISO 14001 and related standards and guidelines (such as ISO 14005). Other subcommittees to TC 207 cover topics such as Environmental Labelling,

Life Cycle Assessment and Green House Gas Management. TC 207 mainly consists of experts of different standardisation bodies or accreditation bodies. As a liaison partner, EFAEP is not able to vote but can participate in discussions. Therefore we have the possibility to voice the concerns of environmental professionals related to the relevant standards.

The 16th ISO/TC207 Meeting in Cairo, Egypt was attended by Cornelia Fricke as the EFAEP representative. Many relevant issues for the members of EFAEP were discussed and the interests of environmental professionals were brought into the discussion. There were also several recommendations for EFAEP that came out of the meeting.

For more information please see Cornelia's reports on the website at: www.efaep.org/documents/topic/36/



Burntwood Lecture and John Rose Award

The IES is pleased to announce that Professor Bob Watson, Chief Scientific Advisor, will be now be giving the keynote address at this year's Burntwood Lecture. The Lecture will be held at the Royal Society in London on the 11th November. The theme of the evening is how environmental sciences have and should inform our strategic planning. This free event also features the presentation of the John Rose Award. You can request tickets by contacting the IES Office at enquiries@ies-uk.org.uk.

The 2008 John Rose Award winner, Samantha Lawrence has used part of her £1000 grant from the IES to create an exciting website (<http://www.ies-uk.org.uk/non-exhaust/>) to inform the public on the issue of non-exhaust pollution. She has also launched a petition to prompt the Government to investigate non-exhaust emissions to reduce atmospheric particles, improving air quality and reducing premature deaths. Emissions from tyre-wear, brake wear, re-suspended road dust and corrosion of engine parts have been shown to equal or surpass the contributions made to atmospheric pollution made by exhaust emissions.

non
exhaust
pollution



Burntwood Lecture 2009



International Year of Biodiversity 2010

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). A global target to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 was agreed by nearly 200 countries back in 2002. The next conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 will assess international progress towards this target.

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity, the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) based in Montreal, Canada, has called for countries around the world to raise the profile of the year by encouraging diverse organisations

to engage with the issues and celebrate the importance of biological resources.

There are three key messages that the CBD believes will support their goal:

- To raise awareness of how biodiversity is important for human wellbeing as well as preserving the quality of the environment.
- To point out that globally the current rate of biodiversity loss is severe, by some accounts up to 100 times the natural rate of extinction.
- That we need to work together to halt this loss and that there are many "success stories" which point the way to the future.

To find out more about IYB 2010 or to sign up as a supporter please visit the website at: www.cbd.int/2010/

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

Upcoming Events

10 - 12 November 2009
IEEM Autumn Conference - Protected Areas: Past, Present and Prospects
Suffolk, UK
www.ieem.net

11 November 2009
IES Burntwood Lecture
London, UK
www.ies-uk.org.uk

1 - 4 December 2009
Pollutec Horizons
Paris, France
www.pollutec.com

7 - 18 December 2009
United Nations Climate Conference (COP15)
Copenhagen, Denmark
<http://en.cop15.dk>

27 January 2010
CIWEM National Conference and Rivers and Coastal Group Winter Meeting
London, UK
www.ciwem.org

24 March 2010
IEEM Spring Conference - Ecosystem Services
London, UK
www.ieem.net

28 - 29 April 2010
CIWEM Annual Conference - Water & Environment 2010
London, UK
www.ciwem.org

27 - 29 May 2010
Clima 2010
Porto, Portugal
www.apea.pt



Member in Focus - VVM

The Dutch Association of Environmental Professionals (Vereniging van Milieuprofessionals, VVM) is the network for environmental professionals in the Netherlands. The VVM supports all environmental professionals, both experienced and young talented. Criterion for becoming a member is the field of activity, not the education received. Because of this diversity in backgrounds, employers and expertise, the VVM is an attractive and inspiring platform for its members. The open culture promotes contacts among colleagues, and discussions and opinions about every possible environmental subject.

The VVM is engaged to professionalise its members through its environmental magazine (Tijdschrift Milieu), meetings on various themes, congresses and courses.

An independent and professional attitude is pivotal to all VVM activities. The VVM applies a code of conduct.

What does VVM have to offer?

- participation in an active network
- Tijdschrift Milieu (Magazine Environment, in Dutch)
- Discounts on relevant professional magazines, congresses and training courses
- The National Day on the Environment (Nationale Milieudag) (discount for members)
- Theme meetings (free admission or a discount for members)
- Career corner
- International contacts
- Member guide / digital member guide
- International scientific journal Environmental Sciences, International Journal of Integrative Environmental Research



About EFAEP

EFAEP is the European Federation of Associations of Environmental Professionals, which seeks to promote and coordinate the professional status, level and content of environmental work and of those working in this field.

Its objectives are:

- to be the representative organisation for all Environmental Professionals across Europe;
- to promote and co-ordinate environmental work and environmental professionals while recognizing the separate identities of its member organisations;

- to promote adherence to environmental professional standards as one of the essential prerequisites for achieving sustainability;
- to influence and implement the environmental policy, science and education agenda throughout Europe.

It will do so by being respected for its adherence to sound science rather than political lobbying but will be proactive where supported by scientific or technical evidence. Where possible it will also use its influence within the global context, beyond the European boundaries.

For full statutes and how to become a member association of EFAEP, please consult the website: www.efaep.org.

Current members:

AFITE, France
 AIAT, Italy
 AIN, Italy
 AISA, Italy
 APEA, Portugal
 ASEP, Switzerland
 ATEGRUS, Spain
 CIWEM, UK
 CSPZP, Czech Republic
 FAEP, Finland
 IEEM, UK
 IEMA, UK
 IES, UK
 VBU, Germany
 VDI, Germany
 VMD, Belgium
 VNU, Germany
 VVM, the Netherlands

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