

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMISTS

Date: Sunday 29 June 2003, 18.00-19.15

Location: Conference Center (Room A4), Bilbao, Spain

Chair: Professor Klaus Conrad (KC)

Attendance: More than 50 members of EAERE were present.

1. **Minutes of AGM on 26 June 2002 (available on EAERE web-page):** approved without comment.
2. **Membership of EAERE:** KC reported updated membership statistics for EAERE. A membership database (including e-mail list) has been set up and consolidated after severe problems of information transfers associated with the transition of the secretary from Southampton to Mannheim. Membership has risen from 390 in 2002 to 417 in 2003.
3. **Financial Accounts:** KC presented the EAERE accounts for 2002. Starting from an opening balance of € 31.946,55 as of January 1st 2003 the closing balance as of March 31 amounts to 40.004,17 €. Sjak Smulders and Jeroen Van den Bergh, having been appointed as auditors last year, have checked the details of monetary transactions and approved correctness.
4. **Nomination for President, President-elect and Council:** KC reported the following nominations:
 - President (2004 and 2005, old statutes):
 - Carlo Carraro (Italy)
 - Frank Convery (Ireland)
 - President-elect (2006 and 2007, new statutes):
 - Bengt Kriström (Sweden)
 - Anastasios Xepapadeas (Greece)
 - Council:
 - Two out of four candidates (2004 and 2005, old statutes)

- Johan Eyckmans (Belgium)
- Cathrine Hagem (Norway)
- Andreas Kontoleon (Greece/England)
- Richard Tol (The Netherlands/Germany)

Two out of four candidates (2004-2007, new statutes)

- Erwin Bulte (The Netherlands)
- Nick Hanley (Scotland)
- Katrin Millock (France)
- Santiago Rubio (Spain)

Current EAERE members may participate in elections of the EAERE president, president-elect and of 4 council members (two for 2 years and two for 4 years for terms) beginning on 1 January 2004.

5. **Journal Matters:** Ian Bateman – the editor-in-chief of *Environmental and Resource Economics* (EARE) – provided statistics indicating a further improvement in quality and recognition of this journal over the last years. KC then reported on the tedious negotiations with Kluwer during the last year to achieve a more satisfying linkage of the journal to the association. The recent agreement with Kluwer provided substantial improvements with respect to key concerns of the association such that further collaboration could be warranted. More specifically the new *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) foresees that (i) appointments of all members of the editorial board (editor-in-chief, etc. ...) shall be made by mutual agreement between EAERE and Kluwer, (ii) EAERE will appoint a member of the Managing Editorial Board to act as Liaison Officer between EAERE and the Managing Editorial Board (Alistair Ulph will act as such), (iii) ERE will be promoted as *Official Journal* of EAERE, (iv) the annual subscription rate for individual EAERE members will be set at € 69 compared to € 158 EAERE members paid before, (v) Kluwer pays 5 % royalties on ERE membership subscription to EAERE, (vi) EAERE and Kluwer will review whether to bundle together membership of EAERE with an individual subscription to ERE, (vii) any proposal to change the number of issues from current figure of 12 per year will be made by mutual agreement between Kluwer and EAERE, and (viii) newsletter will be published in ERE for free.

As to (vi) KC expressed the council's strong recommendation for mandatory bundling (see section 6 below) in order to increase the number of subscribers to the association's journal and make it thus further established in the academic field.

6. **Proposed Membership Fees:** Given the unanimous support of the present EAERE members for mandatory bundling, KC presented the associated proposal for the revised membership fees (including individual subscription to ERE): Full 1 Year: 110 €; Reduced 1 Year : 81 €; AERE/ALEAR Secondary 1 Year: 90 €; AERE/ALEAR Reduced 1 Year: 75 €. The reduced rate applies for doctoral students, Eastern Europeans and members from less developed countries. Furthermore, bundling is optional for ALEAR (without bundling Secondary membership amounts to 20 € at the full rate and 6 € at the reduced rate). The new fees were approved.
7. **Permanent Secretariat:** KC reflected on the continuous management problems of EAERE in the past because of the lack in a permanent secretariat. In order to avoid larger frictions emerging from repeated displacement of the secretariat, a permanent secretariat would be desirable which takes care on central day-to-day tasks such as (i) handling of membership files, (ii) updating of the web-site (links to other activities), (iii) sending out calls for papers, ballots for elections, etc., (iv) collection of membership fees, (v) correspondence with council members, ordinary EAERE members, publishers, organizers of Summer Schools or conferences, (EU) fund raisers, etc. Owing to the need for a permanent secretariat, IVM at Amsterdam (directed by Harmen Verbruggen) first offered free secretarial support with respect to the collection of membership fees and to the handling of membership files, but then voluntarily withdrew when FEEM at Venice (directed by Carlo Carraro) promised a broader package of support (including items (i)-(v) above). KC reported on the council's decision to accept the FEEM offer on the permanent secretariat although details of management and financing require further clarification. The assembly approved the decision by the council.
8. **Summer Schools (EAERE-FEEM-VIU):** The planned Summer Schools after 2002 are as follows (organizer in brackets):
 - 2003: "Political Economy of Environmental Policy", Venice, Italy (Anthony Heyes)
 - 2004: "Dynamic Models of Growth and the Environment", Tilburg University, The Netherlands (Aart de Zeeuw)

- 2005: "Renewable Resource Management", University of Umea, Sweden (Karl Gustav Löfgren)
- 2006: "CGE Models in Environmental and Resource Economics", Centre for European Economic Research – ZEW, Mannheim, Germany (Christoph Böhringer and Klaus Conrad)
- 2007: "International Dimension of Environmental Policy", Tilburg University and Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Cees Withagen)

Further information can be obtained at the EAERE web-site: <http://www.eaere.org>

9. **Future Conferences:** The Thirteenth Annual Conference of EAERE in 2004 will take place at Budapest, Hungary (organizer: Sandor Kerekes). Further information can be obtained at the web-site: <http://hcpc.bke.hu/eaere2004bp>

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of EAERE in 2005 is scheduled to take place at Bremen, Germany (organizer: Wolfgang Pfaffenberger). As to the next World Congress (due in 2006) KC reported that EAERE and its North- American counterpart AERE had set up a procedure for selecting a suitable venue. First expressions of interest from possible venues had been invited. This had resulted in a number of responses from all round the world. EAERE/AERE is now asking for detailed proposals against a set of guidelines hoping to announce the outcome at the next annual conference.

As to future EAERE conferences the assembly agreed that the local organizer will have to follow rules similar to the ones that EAERE adopted for the 2006 World Congress. The only exception is Budapest where these rules will be adopted on a voluntary basis (but the fees must be agreed upon with EAERE also in Budapest).

Christoph Böhringer, secretary-general EAERE

August 2003