



The European Association
of Fisheries Economists

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FREE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS
24TH MARCH, 1993

Present:

M. Spagnolo (Italy), President; D. Bailly (France), Vice-President; H. Frost (Denmark), Treasurer; J. P. Hillis (Ireland), Rapporteur. The following also signed as Present: Belgium: G. Houvenhagel; Denmark: Lars Joeker, C. Lyng Jensen, J. Raakjer Nielsen, O. Samroe (Faeroe Islands); France: M. Antona, D. Babin, P. Guillotreau; Greece: M. Papadakis, Z. Bakela; Ireland: M. Fitzsimons, R. O'Connor, B. Whelan; Italy: C. Iandoli, G. Cuppola, V. Placenti; Netherlands: H. Harmsma, J. de Jager, P. Salz; Portugal; R. Junqueira Lopes; Spain: R. Franquesa Artes; United Kingdom: A. Karagiannakos, S. Shaw, M. Dunn, S. Cunningham; Commission of the European Communities: D. Leveil.

Apologies: A. Neiland (UK), Secretary; P. Rodgers(UK).

Mr. J. Weber accepted the President's invitation to act as Chairman of the Meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda. The Agenda was adopted unanimously

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting. The minutes were passed and signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

3. President's Address.

The President, Mr. M. Spagnolo, presented his report, a copy of which is attached (Appendix 1). He noted some improvement in the regard in which fishery economists were held by the EC Commission, including the strengthening of economist representation on the STCF. He finished by thanking Mr. Guy Houvenhagel, Mrs. Houvenhagel and his staff for their work in enabling this meeting and conference to take place in Brussels.

Commenting on the address, Mr. Weber hailed the progress made as being half way to the achievement of the Association's aims already, and called for alertness in being ready to assist in crisis situations. Economic advice on the Amoco Cadiz crisis was given by 20 USA and only 2 French economists. Mr. P. Salz asked to what extent we were academic research economists, and to what extent a body to advise the EC Commission. We should stress to the Commission that we were an independent body. He also wondered whether we could raise a task force without funding. Mr. Weber suggested that in the event of a crisis a co-operative report should be produced within fifteen days; economics of scale would mean that once a co-operative report was

released there should be no problem in obtaining national funding. Mr. H. Frost recalled that discussions with the Commission in October 1991 supported Mr. Weber's theme, but wondered if the Commission's attitude had remained the same. The President stated, regarding the Commission's attitude that if they have a problem they send faxes to individuals, and could develop this way of operating, which EAFE must watch, as it could weaken the Association's position. The Association had decided not to apply for any projects in its own right. However vigilance was required to guard against exploitation of EAFE or single groups inside it. Mr. Weber warned that accepting contracts could compromise EAFE's independence. Mr. Bailly also counselled caution in dealing with the Commission. He pointed out that Mr. D. Levieil had asked EAFE to admit social scientists, which Mr. Bailly regarded as a manipulative move. He noted that economists already helped the EC Commission to administer the Common Fisheries Policy, by their service on the STCF, which was very good. He urged the formation of an EAFE task force but foresaw problems in financing it. He continued, observing the necessity for transparency in financing projects; there had been problems of non-transparency in the FAR and AIR programmes. The President noted that our queries of the Salerno (1992) AGM had largely been answered. Mr. Weber proposed adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer, Mr. H. Frost, presented his Report, Statement of Accounts and Table of changes in membership numbers, of which copies are attached (Appendices 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3). The balance sheet was laid out in the same way as Danish university balance sheets. The year showed a surplus of 22,443 ECUs and membership had risen (see Appendix). He had investigated the practicability of having members' subscriptions paid by credit card but could not recommend it at the moment. He noted that payment by the EC still comprised the only really substantial item of revenue received by EAFE. He reported that the Bureau recommended grants of 500 ECUs for members to attend meetings other than those being held at Annual General Meeting/Conference venues. The adoption of this measure was proposed by Professor S. Shaw and passed unanimously.

5. WORKSHOP REPORTS

(1) Statistics, B. J. Whelan.

The round table discussion had highlighted deficiencies in national statistics, including issues relating to frequency and reliability. Log book data was now widely available and there could be much scope for co-operation regarding log books. Some countries had good statistics, others were at an earlier stage of development and were very much feeling their way.

(2) Econometrics, M. Dunn.

Contributions included those on determinants in investment from C. Lynge Jensen, availability of control theory, from R. Junqueira Lopes and the use of the PC program 'Give 7' from N. Cooper.

In discussion, Mr. Spagnolo noted that workshops appeared to be replacing commissions in EAFE activities and yielding better results.

6. ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOPS.

Mr. P. Salz observed that our organisation could not yet compete with that of the biologists; Mr. Spagnolo, however mentioned that there were already some economists in working groups of ICES. Mr. Salz referred to a forthcoming workshop in April or May already mentioned in the Bulletin; he also mentioned that he was working on a more detailed proposal on which he would welcome assistance and thought this would ultimately help EAFE; he was trying to put structure onto a discipline and found available data poor. EAFE must organise if it was to rise above the level of ad hoc studies. Mr. Frost asked the meeting to consider what was the purpose of workshops.

Mr. Bailly queried if there was pressure for us to move towards an ICES type situation, regularly providing economic advice. He also offered to organise a workshop jointly with Mr. J.-P. Boude on upstream and downstream effects of measures at Rennes. Two other suggestions for workshop subjects heard yesterday and this morning respectively were self-management and utilisation of log-book data. Mr. Salz suggested a workshop on the economic performance of fleets, and Mr. Franquesa Artes said that he might possibly be able to organise a workshop in Barcelona.

7. DIRECTORY

Mr. Frost suggested the compilation of a Directory of EAFE with basic CV information on every member, and titles of their recent works, to be produced in English in a form designed by the Bureau. Mr. Spagnolo said that it could be funded by EAFE. Mr. Weber suggested that it should include e-mail addresses. Mr. Spagnolo wondered if inclusion of CV information was desirable or not. Mr. Frost noted that the EC Directory only listed institutes. Ms. Shaw said that the objective of a directory was to facilitate contact between workers, indicate topics of current interest and report indicative papers. Mr. Spagnolo said that the format should be standard; he went on to propose a standard format. Ms. Shaw pointed out that much work was not on formal projects; Mr. Weber suggested three lines for each project description, which Mr. McKellar thought was inadequate. Mr. Salz suggested including results completed, work in progress, and interests. Ms. Shaw suggested seeking draft entry material from members when seeking their subscriptions. The measure was put to the meeting and passed.

8. BUREAU STRUCTURE.

Mr. Spagnolo reported the Bureau's view that the present structure of the Bureau election rules was unhelpful since it implied that the editorship of the Bulletin, since it was attached to the secretaryship, must change every three years, and that the location of EAFE's bank account, since it was a function of the Treasurer must do likewise, as these office-bearers only served for three year terms of office. He sought the meeting's views.

Mr. McKellar felt that the problem would not be solved by measures that increased the number of Bureau members; Mr. Weber urged preservation of continuity of services and suggested the structure of a President and a Board of four others. Mr. Franquesa stressed the importance of maintaining democratic features; Mr. Hillis pointed out that Treasurer and Secretary could serve three years like any other Bureau members and that they should attend meetings in a non-voting capacity when not serving as members. Mr. Dunn asked who was the Bureau's contact man, it was pointed that in practice, all important correspondence was handled by the President. Mr. Frost pointed out that this was similar to the system in the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade; he recommended that the Bureau should consist of the President and four others.

Mr. Spagnolo then moved to discuss alteration of election rules. He put up for consideration:-

1. A 'rotary' system, with successful candidates serving two years as President-elect, three years as President and one year as Past President

2. EC STCF form of election (Countries submit names to Bureau for choice), could provide that only one from each country served, and that the northern and southern countries of the EC were both properly represented. Mr. Weber called for any criticisms, and the following issues were raised:-

Consideration of issue for a year (Ms Shaw).

Avoidance of complication (Mr. Salz).

Should voting be - secret (Mr. Weber), - postal (Mr. McKellar), and so include absentees from the Annual General Meeting (Mr. Weber)

Mr. Frost proposed that the Bureau should formulate a set of proposals and present them to next year's AGM. The Chairman put this proposal to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

Mr. Spagnolo reported that Ms. Bakela conveyed an invitation to meet at her institute in Crete, Greece, in 1994, and Mr. Dunn tentatively offered to organise the 1995 meeting in Portsmouth or London, UK. The meeting expressed its thanks to Ms. Bakela and Mr. Dunn.

10. ELECTIONS

Candidates were elected to posts in the Bureau for 1993-1994 as follows:-

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
President	M. Spagnolo	M. Dunn	J. P. Hillis
Vice-President	D. Bailly	R. Junqueira Lopes	B. J. Whelan
Secretary	S. Cunningham	A. Neiland (written)	J. Weber
Treasurer	H. Frost	J. P. Hillis	P. Salz
Rapporteur	N. McKellar	M. Spagnolo	D. Bailly


11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) A letter from Mr. Neiland was read out, notifying a meeting, being a "Consultation on Management Strategies for European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for the 21st. Century", to be held in conjunction with the 18th Session of EIFAC in May 1994

(2) A vote of thanks was to Mr. Guy Houvenhagel, and his wife, family and staff for all their hard work undertaken to organise this year's Annual General Meeting and Conference was proposed, and passed by Acclamation.

The Meeting then closed.

J. P. Hillis
Rapporteur.
11 December 1993


M Spagnolo
President