

Minutes of the meeting of the Poultry Section, Friday May 19th 2023, at 08.00 hr in Sofia (BG)

1. Opening and welcoming

At 8 o'clock President Andy Verelst opens the meeting with a welcome to everybody. 29 people are present. We decide to meet in the English language.

This year is deceased one of the regular coming collegians Andreas Gruber from Austria. He was only allowed to live to be 54 years old. We remember him and the other unnamed friends standing for a moment.

2. Recording attendance

20 countries, AT, BE, BG, BiH, CH, CZ, DE, DK, ES, EST, FR, HR, LU, MK, NL, RO, SK, SLO, SRB, TR, are present and 1 guest, XK. The attendance list is signed by 29 people.

3. Approval of the minutes of the section meeting, May 27th 2022 in Konjic

This is online. No comments will be made about it.

4. Report of the presidium meetings in 2023

There have been 5 meetings in the past year. That was twice a year before Covid. But now more often because there are also online contacts. But it doesn't mean much more has been done. As important points, Andy mentions:

- There is an application for membership of San Marino, it is a very small organisation, 1 representative was delegated this weekend, and Kosovo. There are still some uncertainties about the last application. This will be discussed further this weekend.
- Preparation for this weekend in Sofia.
- EU 2020/688 directive, concerns free access across different borders in Europe.
- The content of the presidency. There is a vacancy for a chairman and a treasurer. The German Rabbit Association has nominated Hansjörg Opala as treasure. Is on the agenda for Saturday. Gion, the current chairman has been found willing to stay for another 2 years. Then the EE show in Prague is over. The annual meeting will decide in what form this show will be organized. Admitting AI-sensitive animals is very risky. It may be that it is decided once to keep this show only for non-AI-sensitive animals, rabbits and guinea pigs.
- A new regulation for European shows. However, the proposal will be withdrawn at the annual meeting because it has not yet been aligned with Luxembourg law, the seat of the EE.
- The question is whether it is still justified to assign an EE show far in advance. You don't know how it then will be in terms of regulations and diseases. It is also impossible to reserve halls etc. so far in advance. The financial risk is very high. Registration fee cannot be increased. Remittance to the EE greenhouse could be lower. A day less judging should be possible and

the care of everyone could also be different, for example the use of vouchers for meals. A quick global calculation indicates that a cost reduction of 25,000 euros could be possible for 30,000 animals. The Presidency initially agreed on this, but later it did not. But there is a problem: the funding of the EE depends to a large extent on the contributions of the EE shows. The number of sponsors is also declining. And the own costs must also be considered. The costs for the presidency are very high. The presidium could also be smaller in size. For example, a member could also be a substitute chairman and the honorary president does not have to be part of the presidium.

Gion and Jeanine come to visit the meeting. The sections are the backbone of the EE. But our hobby is under pressure: bird flu, regulations, other opinions about animal husbandry. This means that we have to put pressure on politics through our own countries to influence the ability to continue to practice our hobby. Through these own political channels, they also continue to work towards the EU. Many decisions are taken at European level.

Jeanine asks to check the contact list and to supplement or change it where necessary.

5. Information from the animal welfare commission

Prof. Hristo Lukanov reads a statement.

Quote:

Overview activities subcommittee animal health and welfare 2022-2023

Since the previous annual congress in Bosnia Herzegovina in May 2022, our animal health and welfare committee, consisting of: Hristo Lukanov (Bu), Eduard Gendrin (Fr) Wim Halsema (NI), Gunther Anthonissen (Be), Peter Supuka (Sk.) , Andy Verelst (Be) and Erik Apperlo (NI), dealt with a number of topics. We consulted each other in 4 digital meetings. In addition, a lot of time and work has been put into dealing with these topics.

An important subject that has been discussed several times concerns bird flu. As is known, it is endemic in Europe, which means that it occurs all year round in nature and therefore poses a risk to kept AI sensitive birds. To deal with this new situation, hopes are pinned on a vaccine that offers protection. Everyone is working hard on this and the first tests of the first vaccines seem positive, but it may take a long time before vaccines are actually available for our animals and, in addition, for the exhibition of the animals, the vaccine must not only protect the animals at home but also provide so much safety that transport and bringing animals together are allowed again.

In addition to bird flu, we also discussed a number of issues with a view to a future European show. For example, we started developing housing advice for the various animal species during this event to prevent any problems with animal welfare due to incorrect housing or care by providing the correct advice in advance.

As you know, at the 2021 congress in Denmark, a power for our subcommittee was adopted whereby we can decide, in consultation with the main jury per animal species, to exclude animals from the event. This is due to compromised animal welfare due to excessive overtyping or other characteristics. To be clear about this, we want to talk to the standard committees to determine whether harmful characteristics are reflected clearly enough in the variety descriptions so that it is clear to breeders by reading the standard what is acceptable and what is not.

Examples of social threats from member countries have also been reviewed. This includes, for example, positive lists of permitted animal species to be kept. It often appears that a number of

animal species kept within the EE are not listed here, which means that they may no longer be kept. Attacks by animal welfare organizations also occur in various countries and are very difficult to combat. Last year, the ZDRK already pointed out in the rabbit section that a media attack on lop-ear breeds had started in Germany. With a lot of effort and by refuting empty arguments with facts, research and literature, the ZDRK succeeded in refuting these charges. In the Netherlands, bills are being drafted that prohibit the slaughter of one's own animals. This can also make our hobby very difficult.

The most important efforts have been made by the committee in the area of European legislation where the 429 regulation requires more registration and the biggest problem is formed by the 688 regulation, which requires additional requirements for pigeons and poultry during cross-border transport. At the time of the previous conference, a public consultation was underway in which the necessary input was provided from our side. This public consultation has given thought to those responsible in Brussels and the first consequence was that the exceptions that should apply to the 429 regulation are being reviewed. Without us being aware of it, the public consultation was also a reason for the European Commission to implement a relaxation of the 688 regulation, which allows animals to be collected from February this year so that larger groups of animals instead of each individual breeder a separate TRACES certificate can be drawn up. This saves a lot of costs.

To address another problem of the 688 regulation, Andy Verelst and Erik Apperlo had a meeting in Brussels on 6 February. In a technical meeting with officials there, it was indicated that it is very disadvantageous for our European shows that animals are not allowed to leave for another country when they are sold. It seems to have succeeded in making this clear and debunking the fact that this entails many major risks. The first signals from subsequent consultations between the European Commission and representatives of the national governments indicate that the arguments from our discussion are being taken seriously. Hopefully this will lead to sales being possible again in the future. Transport of animals will always be accompanied by a TRACES certificate. There is no discussion about this.

As can be heard in this short report, the subcommittee is fully active and will have to remain active to help preserve the future for our hobby.

In BG and NL there has been no show with AI-sensitive animals in the past year. In CH, F and S, parts of the country have been closed. This is also the case in DK.

6. European breed championships : retrospection on 2022 and new applications

Already adopted:

October 2023, Schwäbisch Gmund Bettringen (D) : Rheinländer + Bantams

November 2023, Bussy Lettree (F) : Houdan, British Faverolles, Franz. Faverolles + Mantes and Bantams

New proposals:

October 2023, Mulhouse (F) : Laughing doves; Orpington + Bantams

November 2023, Jerez de la Frontera (E) : Asturier, Utrerana + Castillianer

November 2024, Fagaras (RO) : Brahma + Cochin + Bantams

All 3 accepted.

7. European poultry standards

No photos provided since last time, despite the explicit request. There will be a list that we don't have pictures of. The background of a photo does not matter, it can be shopped away. Policy is not changed, no photo, no European standard.

8. Election : secretary of the section

There are no counter-candidates for the secretary. He is re-elected for the next 3 years.

The representatives from the regions in de standard commission are not complete. Region South East Europe has to make a payment itself. Turkey, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria agree that Sonja Carter will supplement the Standard Commission South East Europe.

9. ESC-P chairman's report

We had meetings in Wittgenthal and Sofia.

Important points from last year:

- Inventory of breeds and colour varieties is updated regularly
- The new list new accepted races and colours will be placed in the home-page. What is not mentioned on the list, cannot be showed an EE-shows
- Situation in EE is mentioned: transport certificates, EE-shows and bird diseases
- There are more than 200 breed descriptions made. But still missing good pictures of to many of them
- There are Brahma breeds in the colour porcellain shown on internet and other real places with wrong neck colour and too pale in body. They are not porcelain and will never be that
- Decision of 2003: large combed Chaobos will NOT be accepted for animal protection aspects
- Crème Legbar: standard description must be done. Which colour: Lemon duckwing cuckoo?
- Naked neck silkies will be accepted only heterozygoot, with feather tuft on the brest, with beard, without wattles and a throat beard is open in the middle
- German Turkeys
 - Different size and typ
 - Splitting according size
 - Standard description in autumn
- Rework of various texts
- Visibility of crested breeds
- Short legged breeds in extra class
- Comb size
- AOC
 - Any accepted colour varieties, which are recognized in other breeds
 - Not accepted new characteristics, new featherstructure, new leg colour, new com shapes, examples, no rumples crested breed, or no naked neck breed.
- Laughing doves, in France was a proposal this breed to bring to the branch pigeons. Decision: all wild doves belong together and stay in branch poultry
- Brahma in black mottled. Main colour black, regularly pattern. Big faults: mostly white in wings,tail and feets, well visible under plumage
- We want no discussion on Facebook or internet about breeds
- Review Trencin: there were lots of participants, interesting presentations, good technical lectures, speakers from several countries.

10. Judges meeting 2023 in Serbia

This meeting will be held on 16th September. There is a programme for one day. Also the judges from pigeons will be there.

11. Future judges meetings

The place where it will be hold must be near an international airport, max half an hour driving. Tsjechien in 2024, near Prague, North Macedonian and Spain are interested for the coming years.

12. Agenda for the 2023 EE general meeting

There will be not voted about new rules. The proposal must be first checked to the Luxemburg rules. Also about a new member San Mario.

13. Open debate : the future of the EE

This debate was form 14 till 15.30 hours. Subjects they come along: fee of EE-shows, shorter meetings smaller presidium, nuance in contribution payments, taskforce for all the sections, for next year, reducing travelcosts for judges

14. Suggestions and requests

No.

15. Any other business

No.

Klaas van der Hoek, secretary