



**Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture**



Europäischer Verband für Geflügel-, Tauben-, Vogel-, Kaninchen- und Caviazucht

European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Cage Bird, Rabbit and Cavy Breeders

Association Européenne pour l'Elevage de Volailles, de Pigeons, d'Oiseaux, de Lapins et de Cobayes

## **Minutes of the General Meeting of 31 May 2025 in Bucharest / Romania**

Chairman:	Gion Gross
Protocol:	Jeannine Jehl
Excused:	Honorary President: Urs Freiburghaus Honorary members: Graham Giddings, Esther Huwiler, Peter Mickmann, Slavibor Petrizlika,, Joseph Rey-Bellet, Adi Rudolph, Hans Schipper, Karl-Heinz Sollfrank, Hermann Strobelmair, Hans Ulrich Schmid, Henri van Oers, Micky Tompers
Guests:	
Beginning:	08:42 am

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## **Introduction**

Bucharest is not only the capital of Romania but has always been its cultural and intellectual centre. Ottoman and Western European influences met here for centuries, and today's cityscape reflects its eventful history and diverse influences.

You can read about Bucharest on the Internet. Small animal breeding is also firmly rooted in Romania. Anyone who has ever been to a Romanian national show has not only been convinced of the good quality of the animals but has also been pleased to discover that the Romanians know how to organise beautiful and interesting exhibitions. In contrast to the West, the large breeds of both rabbits and chickens still seem to be very popular. In short, anyone who has the opportunity to visit such an exhibition should not miss it.

I am delighted that we are able to hold the conference in Romania for the first time and would like to thank the organisers very much. With around 130 participants, the turnout is quite good, although the price is once again higher than last year. We will probably have to get used to the fact that such conferences, for which we do not need a luxury hotel, but one that can provide the infrastructure that is so important to us, can no longer be organised for 500 euros!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 86th General Assembly of Entente Européenne! I would like to thank everyone who has come to this meeting, and I am pleased to declare the 86th General Assembly of the EE open.

The agenda for today's General Assembly has been sent to everyone or can be downloaded from the website. It is a somewhat unusual agenda."

There were no comments or amendments.

## **1. Opening, welcome**

Alexandru Florian Gatejescu, Chairman of the Romanian Small Animal Association, greets all participants at the EE Conference 2025 and thanks them for coming to Bucharest. He wished everyone a good stay.

Gion Gross, President:

"I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the honourable members, delegates and friends of Entente Européenne who are present.

Unfortunately, some of our comrades are unable to attend this year's General Assembly for health reasons. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming you back in good health at the next meeting.

Death once again tore gaps in our ranks last year. Members who have been committed to our cause for years, even decades, have left us forever. The deaths of our honorary member Vally Suter, the wife of our former honorary president Ernst Suter, and the former chairman of the poultry division Frans von Oers are representative of all of them

We remember all our deceased members with gratitude and rise briefly from our seats.

**People enter our lives and accompany us for a while.**

**Some stay forever, because they leave traces in our hearts.**

I would like to thank our translators Urs Lochmann and Lars Van Droogenbroeck. Thanks to them, simultaneous translation is once again possible!"

## **2. Determination of attendance**

The voting cards have been distributed at the entrance. There is one voting card and one ballot paper per division of a country.

Proxy votes and ballot papers may, only with power of attorney, only be cast for the divisions of one's own country.

109 delegates are present.

The President asks whether all delegates entitled to vote have received their voting cards and ballot papers.

At the same time, the EE medals were handed out at the entrance. There was also important information for the associations about the EE European Show in Nitra, including the registration of animals.

Willy Littau, Harald Neusser and Mihai Sinna were proposed as scrutineers.

***Resolution: the proposed candidates are elected without dissenting votes.***

## **3. Minutes of the EE meeting of 20 May 2024 in Kecskemét / HU**

The transcript was written by Jeannine Jehl and published on the website.

There are no questions or comments.

***Resolution: the minutes are adopted unanimously.***

Many thanks to Jeannine Jehl for the prompt fulfilment.

## **4. Report of the President**

Gion Gross: "Only those who know the past can understand the present and shape the future. This quote is not only from former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, but it has also been used many times.

Dear delegates, dear friends.

Up to now, I have always spoken about the strategic goals of the EE in my reports and left the accountability report on the operational work to the Secretary General. She will do the same today. However, I would like to take the liberty of taking a look at the past to help you understand the present. The new President will shape the future of our association together with the Executive Committee and with you.

When I attended my first EE conference around 40 years ago, there were no sections, only section chairs. One of the delegates had to write the minutes at each section meeting. This used to be done by a Swiss man, Hans Lienemann, who unfortunately passed away a long time ago and who accompanied me to this meeting.

"Today you're writing the minutes," he told me shortly before the meeting began. And this position remained with me, even after the sections with a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary were introduced at the beginning of the 1990s.

Almost at the same time, a "small rodent" section was founded because ferrets, rats, mice and other rodents were also bred and exhibited in some countries. Only a few years later, the section became a pure Cavia section, as it still exists today.

When I arrived at the section meeting in the mid-1990s, equipped with a thick, heavy laptop, wrote the minutes during the meeting, had them copied at the hotel and distributed them to the delegates in the evening, it was a minor sensation and all the other sections looked enviously at the rabbit section - today this is the norm.

In 1999, the previous General Secretary, Adi Rudolph, resigned and I was elected to replace him as General Secretary. As soon as I was elected, Adi Rudolph put his writing materials away and I had to take the minutes of the rest of the meeting. At the beginning of the noughties, I had the honour of creating the first website for the EE - today we already have the fourth and modern version and it is no longer under the name entente-ee.com, but with the ending.eu.

A very important step was the founding of the Advisory Board for Animal Health and Animal Welfare in 2004. The Advisory Board is one of the very important instruments within the EE, which is now also campaigning for sensible veterinary conditions for the forthcoming European Show. It was also the time when we increasingly sought dialogue with those responsible in the EU and, thanks to the mediation of our honorary member Dr Lothar Heinrich, were even able to present ourselves with a stand in Brussels.

However, it was also a time of financial hardship in the EE, which was practically bankrupt and could only survive financially thanks to a loan from the Danish federation. My predecessor, Ernst Suter, wrote in the EE's 50th anniversary brochure that they had to buy the European medals on credit in 1974 because they were already struggling with financial difficulties at the time. The annual fee per division was already DM 150.00 in the seventies of the last century. Unfortunately, I no longer know when and why it was reduced. Today we are at 150 euros and at the moment that is quite enough, as we have very healthy finances. This is mainly thanks to the sponsorship launched by our Honorary President Urs Freibughaus, which has flushed more than 100,000.00 euros into the EE coffers. Fortunately, thanks to the mediation of Hansjörg Opala, we were able to renew the sponsorship contract with the company MIFUMA last winter, which will secure us a further 40,000 euros over the next five years. Together with the income from the breed-specific European shows and the general European shows, we now have a solid financial foundation!

In recent years, we have been able to admit new countries or divisions to the EE again and again, so that today our association has 33 countries - we are therefore larger than the EU, but in terms of the number of members we still have a slight need to catch up with the EU...

The disputes in individual countries have caused and continue to cause us concern. Since I have been here, there has never been peace in all countries! Unfortunately, and this is particularly regrettable, it's never about animals, but about people who don't want to give up their power or who want to gain new power. Why, I keep asking myself, do we always have to argue in the most beautiful hobby in the world, which should offer us joy and relaxation?

This year we will finally be able to experience a general European show again. It will certainly not be as big as the 2012 European Show in Leipzig, when 96,000 animals were registered and around 10,000 animals could not be accepted due to lack of space. That doesn't have to be the case either. We are convinced that we will experience a very nice and worthy European show in Nitra, because the show management is working at full speed and we are in constant dialogue with the people responsible.

I'll come to the end.

As I step down today after 26 years as a member of the Executive Committee, I am pleased that we have a new, modern website, up-to-date statutes and healthy finances. The foundations for a successful future for the EE are in place - now we need to build on and expand them.

Dear delegates, in this brief review, I have not focussed on what I have achieved, because a president is only as good as the work of his Executive Committee members. And they can work as well as they do if the delegates are not of the same opinion. I would therefore like to conclude by thanking my colleagues on the Executive Committee, all those present and all those who have worked and continue to work for EE for the trust and support that I have always received. I would be delighted if you would do the same for my successor!

***Decision: The President's report is unanimously approved.***

## **5. Report of the Secretary General**

Jeannine Jehl reports:

"Dear delegates,

First of all, I should convey the greetings of many honorary EE members to you. They encourage you to continue the joint work and wish you a very instructive and sociable time here in Bucharest.

There was a lot to do in the administrative part of the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank Nori and Istvan once again for organising the last EE meeting in Hungary in such a short space of time.

At this meeting, we approved the changes to the statutes at the Extraordinary General Assembly. Now it was time to bring them to Luxembourg for approval. After several emails back and forth, it was now adopted.

Then we were looking for a bank in Luxembourg. This was not easy either. And that is why we will have to amend the articles of association today. The treasurer will tell you more about this.

We were happy that Slovakia wanted to organise the EE European show and that we could sign the contract near Vienna. All documents are ready.

Numerous online meetings were held with the members of the Presidium. And also, with the organisers of the current and subsequent meetings, as well as with the organisers of the EE European Show in Nitra.

I visited several exhibitions abroad. I represented the EE at the national shows in Luxembourg and Switzerland.

I would like to thank you very much for the warm welcome and the wonderful moments I was able to spend with friends.

The vast majority of the membership changes in your associations reach me. One request, it would be nice if you could email me the e-mail addresses written on a computer keyboard. Errors can occur with handwritten addresses, especially when the document is scanned. A big thank you to all of you.

At the moment there are almost 800 more names of people in charge of all associations stored, I suspect there are many who are no longer active.

The EE only needs the coordinates of the president, the contact person and the website address. They have already received the document to communicate the coordinates.

I have something strange to report, I received an e-mail from a fancier from Afghanistan who wanted the local pigeon breeds to be represented in the EE. Our reputation goes far out into the world.

I would like to thank you and hope to spend a few more instructive and sociable moments with you."

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions or comments. As there were none, he asked them to approve the Secretary General's report.

***Decision: the Secretary General's report is unanimously approved.***

## **6. Report of the Section Chairmen (Poultry, Pigeons, Birds, Rabbits, Cavia)**

### **Poultry: Andy Verelst**

Andy Verelst reports: "Yesterday, the poultry division meeting took place until 4 pm. 24 countries were present. 3 RBES are planned for this year and 1 in 2026.

The 2025 judges' training course will take place in Mallorca. In 2026 it will take place in Bosnia.

The "Future EE" working group was discussed.

### **Pigeons: August Heftberger**

August Heftberger reports:

"Dear Executive Committee, delegates and guests.

We had a very extensive agenda to deal with. The number of 36 delegates from 19 nations was particularly pleasing.

Dr Erik Apperlo informed the participants about various topics, e.g. the veterinary regulations for Nitra, as well as information regarding Traces certification.

It is not possible for breeders from third countries to exhibit in Nitra.

The division chairman informed the delegates about the numerous online meetings of the Presidium. The main topics were the 30th European Show in Nitra and registration of the EE in Luxembourg, as well as EE account transfer.

Outgoing President Gion Gross thanked everyone for their strong participation and wished them continued success. He was bid farewell with much applause.

Hansjörg Opala spoke about the composition and tasks of the new "Future EE" working group. Two people in the division have agreed to participate in this group.

Dr Andy Verelst also spoke a few words about the future of EE and that he and Hansjörg Opala are standing for election as the new president.

Despite a low number of suspected cases, two RBESs had to be cancelled, but four could still be held. One RBES was granted an exemption by the EE Presidium. (Strasskirchen, Viennese and Budapest pigeon breeds). For the years 2026/27, another 6 RBES were approved.

The Intern. Judges' Conference 2024 was excellently organised in Suhl by the Weichold family. Thank you very much.

The Intern. Judges' Conference 2025 will be organised by Spain in Mallorca. Date 12-14 September 2025.

The chairman of the ESKT Lars van Droogenbroeck brought a detailed report on the numerous concerns of nations regarding standards and possible changes regarding animal welfare relevant characteristics in pigeon breeds.

The bulletin is being finalised and will be published on the website. It will contain important documents for fanciers and judges.

About the elections: Unfortunately, no candidates have put themselves forward by 31 December 2024.

I therefore put myself forward again for the next 3 years.

Secretary Weichold stood for re-election for three years.

Election manager Edin Jabandžić conducted the election and asked for a show of hands. Both officials were unanimously confirmed.

Thank you for your trust."

### **Birds: Klaas Snijder**

Klaas Snijder describes: "We had a good meeting yesterday with 16 people from 10 countries. Erik Apperlo from the Animal Welfare and Health Advisory Board reported on animal welfare.

It was a good year for the bird sector".

### **Rabbits: Wolfgang Vogt**

Wolfgang Vogt reports: "With my short statement, I would like to try to convey to you what has moved the rabbit section during the reporting period.

The Rabbit section is also looking forward with hope to the upcoming European Show, which will take place in Nitra from 4 to 8 November 2025. After many discussions and meetings, the contract was signed in January 2025. The members of the rabbit section will do their part to ensure that the event is a success for the breeders. Let's hope that the high demands placed on this exhibition with all five sections can also fulfil the high expectations.

Following the cancellation of the breed-related European show in the Czech Republic, a total of 11 breed-related European shows were held in the 2024 reporting period, which are now generally very popular.

Thanks to intensive efforts and growing interest, there are already several applications for breed-related European shows for the 2026 breeding year. The positive trend from the past appears to be continuing here.



The rabbit section is doing everything it can to support this trend.

However, the greatest positive momentum for the rabbit sector was the completion of the new standard in 2024, which comprises a total of 398 pages and was painstakingly completed (interrupted by coronavirus) by the entire standardisation committee within four years. The new standard is proving very popular, which is reflected in the high level of demand.

In addition, the judges' training course was held in Rimini, Italy, from 11 to 13 April 2025. It was a great success with 143 participants from 19 nations. They were made up as follows:

Belgium 1, Germany 54, France 4, Great Britain 1, Italy 16, Croatia 2, Latvia 1, Luxembourg 5, Netherlands 5, Austria 12, Poland 7, Romania 10, Switzerland 5, Serbia 3, Slovakia 4, Slovenia 2, Czech Republic 8 and Hungary 3.

On 11 April 2025, some of the participants arrived at the conference venue after exhausting car journeys.

The presentations of the breeds followed the next day. The breeds to be trained were presented using PowerPoint presentations. They were prepared by the organisers in the three languages of the EE in such a way that each of the participants could easily understand the presentations. The following breeds were trained: Burgunder, White New Zealanders, Hares and Californians.

All presentations were excellently prepared and very informative. The practical training then focussed on the four breeds mentioned above. Many of us will remember the judging for a long time to come, because who has ever judged on the sand of the Italian Adriatic?

The large number of participants may also have something to do with the fact that the European show in Nitra is on the agenda.

The next judges' training session in 2025 is expected to take place in Romania.

Both the sectional meeting and the meeting of the Standardisation Commission here in Bucharest were duly held. The agendas were completed in full. All those present took an active part in the proceedings and thus helped both events to be a success.

Looking back on the meetings here in Bucharest from the perspective of the Rabbit section, I can see that we are on the right track and can look positively to the future despite various adverse circumstances.

To conclude my report, I wish you all good health and thank you for your attention!

### **Cavia: Lena Tysk**

Lena Tysk reports: "A good attendance at the meeting. The election result in the section is the same as last time.

The new standard is online for all breeders.

The judges are obliged to attend the training.

There were discussions about the chipping of the Cavia, but at the moment the ear tags remain.

She thanks Eva and Andrea for their help.

## **7. Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Animal Health and Animal Welfare**

Erik Apperlo reports:

The Advisory Board can look back on a somewhat quieter year than previous years. Many issues remain topical, but do not require direct action. After our last meeting, we briefly assessed the committee's working methods, and all committee members are satisfied with them.

As you know, we were mainly concerned with presenting the legal requirements for transporting animals to the European Show and communicating these to breeders as quickly and clearly as possible.

We will inform the sections about the other "smaller" topics tomorrow.

Another important point here is the monitoring of animal welfare during the European Show.

First of all, as agreed in Herning, the advisory board has the task of monitoring excessive breed characteristics and over-typing together with the respective senior juries. If animal welfare is jeopardised, the animals are removed from the show.

Secondly, there is a location check. For future European shows, we would like to produce an advisory document outlining what we think the housing should look like. In this issue we look at the strengths and possible areas for improvement

Finally, we look at animal welfare in the handling of animals during the judging. Here I would like to call on you as division chairmen to clearly emphasise the careful handling of the animals in the judges' instructions. When judging, incorrect handling must be pointed out and in the case of rabbits, the judge is also responsible for his carrier! In the worst case, a carrier can be replaced. In the age of mobile phone cameras and social media, we should not risk being put in a bad light.

Now that our statutes are back in order, we also have the opportunity to register as a stakeholder with the European Union. If this is accepted, we will be even better involved and informed. We will work on this in the coming year."

The President thanked Erik for his work. There is a lot to do.

***Resolution: the report of the division chairmen and the advisory board is unanimously approved.***

## **8. Report of the Treasurer and the Auditors**

Hansjörg Opala reports on the EE's financial year last year. The actual expenditure was higher than expected. This is due to the expenses for the congress, which was moved to Hungary at the last minute.

Revenues: 20 966,00 €

Expenditure: 32 035,80 €

Does a loss of 11 069,80 €

We have a new sponsor. Mifuma will support us with a 5-year contract worth €40,000. The first payment will be made in 2025.

Since the articles of association were registered, it has been possible to invest money at the bank with interest of around € 1,000 pro year.

A large amount of funding is available in the current EU financial framework. The funding programmes are available for further training in voluntary work (such as judges' training) or digital projects (digital standard, exhibition programmes).

He then presents the liquidity plan for the next 3 years.

We also want to take our money to a bank in Luxembourg. We therefore need to amend the articles of association.

Willy Littau and Roland Olinger audited the cash register.

They were able to inspect all documents and verify the veracity of the figures. Everything fits and they thanked the treasurer for the good bookkeeping.

***Resolution: The cash report and the discharge of the Treasurer and the Executive Committee are approved by a majority (1 vote against).***

Many thanks to Hansjörg Opala and the auditors.

## **9. Elections:**

### **a. Confirmation of the election of the division chairmen**

The chairmen of the divisions were elected this year.

There were elected:

Poultry section: Andy Verelst

Pigeon section: August Heftberger

Bird section: Klaas Snijder

Rabbit section: Wolfgang Vogt

Cavia section: Lena Tysk

In this general meeting it is now time to approve them in these positions.

***Resolution: The election of the division chairmen is unanimously approved.***

### **b. Election of the President**

Two candidates are standing for election.

One is Hansjörg Opala, previously Treasurer of the EE, and the other is Andy Verelst, Chairman of the Poultry Division.

Andy Verelst introduces himself, Hansjörg is introduced by Bernd Graf, President of the ZDRK.

There is a secret ballot.

109 Present members

Ballot papers cast: 106

Ungültige Wahlzettel : 2

Hansjörg Opala : 74

Andy Verelst : 30

***Resolution: Hansjörg Opala is elected by a majority***

The Chairman, Gion Gross, asks Hansjörg Opala whether he accepts the election. He accepts the office and thanks the meeting. He hopes for good joint work and wants more communication with all associations.

Gion Gross will bring this Annual General Meeting to a close.

**c. Election of the treasurer**

There is only one candidate, Jean-Maurice Tièche from Switzerland. The President asked whether anyone else was standing for this office. This was not the case.

Regula Schweizer presented Jean-Maurice Tièche.

No one asked for a secret ballot. The election takes place with a show of hands.

For Jean-Maurice: 108 ; against: 0 ; Abstentions: 1

***Decision: Jean-Maurice Tièche is elected by a majority***

Jean-Maurice accepts the election with humility.

**d. Wahl eines Ersatzrevisors**

Willy Littau becomes first and Roland Olinger second auditor

The following as substitute auditors are proposed:

1. Substitute auditor: Istvan Rohringer
2. Substitute auditor: Andrea Kroftová

***Election: the election of the 2 substitute auditors is accepted unanimously.***

**Authorisation for the President and the Treasurer**

As this year's elections are for the President and Treasurer, this item comes after the elections.

Gion asks the delegates whether they authorise the President Hansjörg Opala and the Treasurer Jean-Maurice Tièche for the 2025/26 financial year.

Decision: In favour: 109 Against this: 0 Abstentions: 0

***Resolution: the General Meeting thus authorises the President and the Treasurer to manage the cash register.***

**10. EE European Show 2025 in Nitra**

Peter Zuffa gave a detailed report on the EE European Show at yesterday's presidents' meeting.

It was mainly about the registration of the animals. You can already make a test registration until the end of June. The real registrations will follow later

**11 Honours**

The presidium would like to honour a man who, after many years in the EE, has announced his retirement.

Laudatio for Urban Hamann from Gion Gross

Today we would like to honour a man who was born into small animal breeding, as it were, because his family has always bred rabbits and pigeons and probably other animals as well. And so the boy became a passionate small animal breeder.

He was particularly fond of rabbits. He has already bred countless breeds. He is one of those who not only has a wealth of knowledge. He also has the necessary instinct. Some have an absolute ear for music - others have a breeding talent like his. When a new breed finds its way into his stables, it usually only takes a few years before his animals are not only national, but also European champions.

However, this was not enough for him to become an honorary member of the EE. Our candidate continued his education and also trained as a rabbit judge. He is now not only a respected judge in his home country and a member of the Standards Commission. No, he is known and appreciated as a judge, lecturer and trainer from Norway to Italy.

Even before he was elected secretary of the Rabbit Division and a member of the Standards Commission nine years ago, he could be found all over Europe, taking part in European shows with his animals and as a judge. As secretary of the division and the standard commission, he was also the person who did almost all the administrative work for the judges' training courses and played a key role in drawing up the European standard. And by the way: he has already passed on his rabbit breeding gene. One of his daughters is already a rabbit expert, as judges are called in Switzerland.

And finally this:

I have known Urban Hamann since he was a boy. Back then I bred Havana Rexes and almost always won. One day the boy Urban came to the special show with his Havana Rexes - and from then on I never won again!"

We ask you to give Urban Hamann honorary membership of the EE for his great work for the EE, which he will continue after his retirement, with a big round of applause.

**The nomination of Urban Hamann as an honorary member was accepted unanimously**

**Appointment of Gion Gross as Honorary President of the EE.**

Laudation for Gion Gross from Hansjörg Opala and Edin Jabandžić :

"Dear members of the Entente Européenne,

Today is a very special day in the history of our community.

The Presidium of the EE has the honour of proposing a personality who stands for the values, goals and spiritual foundation of the EE like no other,

for appointment as Honorary President.

Laudatory speech for Gion Gross

Gion Gross has been associated with our association for decades.

His first participation in a European Conference was in 1988 and since then he has attended 36 European Conferences without interruption.

From 1988 and for eleven years he was secretary of the rabbit division.

From 1999 and for 14 years he was Secretary General of the EE. Then from 2013 he was elected President of the EE. Until the present day.

His first participation in a European show was in 1979 in Verona, where he immediately became European Champion.

He has been significantly responsible for 8 European shows since Wels.

In addition, he has held 15 different honorary positions in the small animal organisation in Switzerland.

As a breeder, he started with organised small animal breeding in 1978. In the course of his career, he has bred 4 rabbit breeds, 1 pigeon breed, 5 bird breeds and 13 poultry breeds.

In recent years, the focus has clearly been on his Welsmer and Dwarf Welsmer.

The EE owes Gion Gross a great debt of gratitude.

His leadership was always based on our common values: tolerance, democracy and mutual respect. Under his presidency, the EE has opened up further. Many new countries and associations have become members.

He has thus created the conditions for a united, peaceful Europe.

By appointing him Honorary President, we want to send a visible sign of our gratitude.

At the same time, it is also an invitation to remain connected to us, to continue to accompany us with advice and action, your experience and your passion.

We would therefore like to propose Gion P. Gross for appointment as Honorary President."

**Vote: Gion Gross appointed Honorary Chairman. Unanimously adopted.**

A standing ovation greets the appointment of Gion Gross as Honorary President.

### **Award of the Mérite Agricole to Gion Gross**

Jeannine Jehl, President of the Fédération Française de Cuniculiculture, and on behalf of the French Minister of Agriculture, had the honour of presenting Gion Gross with the "Officier du Mérite Agricole de France" pin. This is the second highest honour in France.

After a brief overview of all his activities in the field of small animal husbandry, Gion was promoted to the rank of officer.

## **12. Foundation of the "Future RE" working group**

Hansjörg Opala presented a PowerPoint yesterday in the divisions with the strategy of this working group and the 3 stages of the mission. These stages consist of identifying our core competences, our points of identification and how we can improve on these points.

An important point is that we need to unite our young breeders.

It was suggested that one volunteer per division be integrated into this group. The meetings will only be organised online. One member of the Executive Committee will attend the meetings as an observer.

Joining the working group: Willy Littau (Poultry), Sasho Sarandev (Pigeons) Sven Pukat (Birds), Pascal Schmitt (Rabbits), Annette Kreuzberg (Cavia).

**12.10 pm The President closes the General Meeting, as a visit from Parliament is planned.**

**17.30 pm The Chairman opens the General Meeting.**

### **13. Applications**

No applications have been received. The Presidium has also not submitted any motions.

### **14. Admission and exclusion of members**

Presenting itself for inclusion:

Lithuania Poultry section

Luxembourg Cavia section

Turkey Pigeons section

Turkey Rabbits section

Ukraine Cavia section

Estonia Rabbit section

Each organisation made a short presentation.

They are all unanimously accepted in the EE.

***Decision: the admission of the 6 new associations was unanimously accepted.***

### **15. Informationen und Tagungen**

The next EE conferences will take place in:

2026            13.–17. 05.    Spanien Mallorca / *Espagne* / Spain

2027            Kosovo

2028            Austria

The Spanish association makes a small presentation of the EE conference venue.

The proposals for the next meeting are accepted.

***Decision: the proposals of the next countries were adopted unanimously.***

### **15. Amendment to the Articles of Association**

Following the registration of the articles of association in Luxembourg in 2024, the association also intends to relocate its banking operations. Under Luxembourg law, all members of the top management level must be registered with the bank. According to the current Articles of Association, this is the entire presidium. This is only possible at great expense.

The solution is to combine the four authorised members of the Executive board (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) into presidium. It is important here that there is expressly no change to the tasks and powers of the presidium or individual members of the presidium.

## **Amendment to the Articles of Association:**

### § 9 Organs

The Executive board

#### § Section 10a The Executive board

10a.1 The Executive Board consists of

1. president
2. vice-president
3. secretary general
4. treasurer

The Executive Board represents the association in and out of court in accordance with §11.6 internally and externally.

Willy Littau asks why EE wants to switch to a bank in Luxembourg. The answer is that the banking conditions are better than in Germany, and as we have deposited our articles of association in Luxembourg, we decide to invest our money there.

The General Meeting unanimously approves these additions.

***Decision: the amendments of the statutes were adopted unanimously***

## **16. Suggestions and wishes**

Peter Zuffa will send all associations the documents for the EE European Show by e-mail and wishes everyone all the best until Nitra.

## **17. Miscellaneous**

As no one has anything to say on this point, Gion Gross has a few more concerns:

"Time and again, we realise that not all the information you receive here is actually passed on. It is not helpful if you simply spend a few pleasant days here. Take the information you have received here to your associations, write a report in your association's newspaper and organise meetings of your associations.

Be sure to support our advisory board in its endeavours to ensure that laws and regulations are suitable for small animals and respond to its questions.

Visit [www.entente-ee.eu](http://www.entente-ee.eu) regularly, where you will always receive the most important information.

Yes, our website is only as up-to-date as the information we receive from the divisions. You have to invest some time if you want to keep it up to date.

Our membership administration is a perennial favourite, and it too is only as up-to-date as you keep it up to date. Dozens of e-mails are always returned because the address is incorrect, the person is no longer in office or has even died. Nobody is allowed to complain if they have not received a message. Then the address is incorrect.

I'll come to the end



If there are delegates who are attending a meeting for the last time this year because they are stepping down from office, I would ask them to stand up now so that we can bid them a dignified farewell."

Roland Olinger resigns from his position as President of the Standard Commission for the Rabbit section after the European Show in Nitra. The General Assembly thanks him for his work with a round of applause.

Gion Gross asks if anyone else would like to say goodbye. As there were none, he continued his speech.

"Once again, I would like to thank you for the numerous invitations to your events, which I accept if possible or pass on to a member of the Executive Committee. The earlier such invitations arrive, the more likely it is that a member of the Executive Committee will be able to attend. Such meetings are important; they promote mutual trust and offer the opportunity for bilateral discussions.

And of course, I would also like to thank you very much for sending me your association magazines. I read them carefully, even though I don't understand every language. But I always enjoy the many beautiful pictures

Finally, I would like to ask if there are any objections to the conduct of the meeting or the organisation of the votes.

Let us now look forward to hopefully many and promising young animals, which I hope we will be able to show in the coming show season and admire at the European show in Nitra. May we be spared epidemics and other events that prevent us from showing. And please give some thought to the possibility of organising the next European Show in your country in 2028.

Yes, and finally, I would like to thank you all for the support I have received over the past 26 years on the Presidium. It has been a wonderful and enriching time. And I am sure that the newly formed Executive Committee will take the EE forward with new vigour and new ideas!

And now, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to wish you all, all the best, good luck in the henhouse, the bird aviary, the dovecote, the rabbit hutch and the Cavia enclosure and, above all, the best of health.

And one more thing: take care of the EE!"

The 2025 General Assembly is closed.

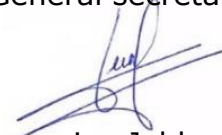
### **End of the General Meeting: 6.20 pm**

President:



Gion Gross

General secretary



Jeannine Jehl