



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 16 May 2025 in Segovia / Spain

Chairman:	Hansjörg Opala
Protocol:	Jeannine Jehl
Excused:	Honorary President: Urs Freiburghaus Honorary treasurer: Willy Littau Honorary members: Esther Huwiler, Peter Mickmann, Micky Tompers Members: Pigeon Switzerland, Poultry Lithuania
Guests:	
Beginning:	09:05 am

Agenda

Einleitung

1. Opening, welcome	3
2. Determination of attendance	4
3. Minutes of the EE meeting of 30 May 2025 in Bucharest.....	4
4. Report of the president	4
5. Report of the general secretary.....	6
6. Report of the Section Chairmen (Poultry, Pigeons, Birds, Rabbits, Cavia.....	7
7. Report of the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Animal Health and Animal Welfare	11
8. Report of the treasurer and the auditors.....	12
9. Final report of the EE-European show 2025 in Nitra.....	13
10. Brief report of the „Futur“ working group.....	14
11. Votes.....	15
11.1 Election of the president.....	16
11.2 Election of the treasurer.....	16
11.3 Election of an auditor.....	16
12. Honours.....	16
13. Applications.....	16
14. European show 2028 in Kielce / PO.....	16
15. Admission and exclusion of members.....	16
16. Information to EE-meeting 2027.....	18
17. Suggestion and wishes.....	19
18. Miscellaneous	19

Right of reply from the Presidium regarding item 9 of the EE 2026 General Assembly: Final report on the EE 2025 exhibition in Nitra.

Introduction

"Segovia combines history, architecture and gastronomy in a very special way. That is why I was delighted to learn that this year's European Conference is being held in Segovia.

The entire old town of Segovia is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and impresses with its narrow streets and historic squares. The cathedral and the Alcázar of Segovia are unique. The shape of the latter is even said to have served as inspiration for castles in Walt Disney films.

Our friends at the Spanish Federation have made a truly excellent choice with their selection of the venue and have set new standards."

Small animal breeding is also deeply rooted in Spain. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to attend one in person, but judging by the reports from the various sections, it is well worth a visit. The Spanish certainly know how to organise very attractive and interesting shows featuring some truly beautiful animals.

I am delighted that we are able to hold the conference in Spain and would like to extend my warmest thanks to the organisers. With around 140 participants, attendance is outstanding, although the cost of this conference is pushing many associations to their limits.

We do not need luxury hotels, but it is difficult to organise a conference in a hotel that can provide the necessary facilities for under €50. We will therefore try to save money in the coming years by making changes to the conference format, but more on that later."

1. Opening, welcome

The President, Hansjörg Opala, opens the EE General Assembly and warmly welcomes all participants.

He extends his heartfelt thanks to the interpreters Urs Lochmann and Lars Van Droogenbroeck. Thanks to them, simultaneous interpretation is once again possible!

This year, simultaneous interpretation is provided from German into English, from English into German, and from German and English into French.

The agenda for today's General Assembly has been sent to everyone or can be downloaded from the website.

He hands over to our host, Arturo González García, President of the Spanish Association, who warmly welcomes all the representatives from 28 European countries and wishes everyone a pleasant stay in Segovia.

President Hansjörg wishes a speedy recovery to all those in leadership roles within the association who were unable to attend due to health issues.

Once again last year, death left gaps in our ranks. Members who had dedicated themselves to our cause for years, indeed decades, have left us forever.

The members rise for a minute's silence in memory of the deceased members.

On behalf of everyone, we would like to mention the passing of our honorary member Karl-Heinz Sollfrank, former Vice-President of the BDRG and well-known for his International Pigeon Fanciers' Meeting on Good Friday in Nuremberg.

In response to the Chair's question, there were no comments or amendments.

2. Determination of attendance

Voting cards and ballot papers were handed out at the entrance. There is one voting card and one ballot paper for each section within a country. A form was also distributed for participants to complete and return at the end of the meeting. It is a questionnaire regarding the proceedings of the 2026 conference.

Proxy voting is only permitted with a power of attorney for the sections within one's own country.

113 delegates are present.

Majority required in elections: 57

At the same time, the EE medals were handed out at the entrance.

The following persons are proposed as vote counters: Sonja Carter, Markus Eber Zsolt Attila Graban, Peter Zuffa.

Resolution: The nominees are elected unanimously.

3. Minutes of the EE meeting of 30 May 2025 in Bucharest / RO

The transcript was written in three languages 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

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

Ladies and gentlemen,

dear fellow breeders,

I would like to begin my report with this quote from the former German Chancellor, Willy Brandt.

Traditionally, the President tends to look ahead – to the future – whilst I am happy to leave the retrospective to our Secretary General.

Nevertheless, please allow me to share a few thoughts on the past year.

This year was my first as President of the Entente Européenne – and it began straight away with a European Show. There are certainly easier ways to start a voluntary role, but as we all know, one grows with one's tasks and challenges. Later in the conference, we will hear a detailed report from the Slovakian association on the European Show in Nitra. So, I would just like to emphasise here: it was an outstanding exhibition. My heartfelt thanks go to all those responsible in Slovakia who helped ensure that the long period without a European Show finally came to a successful conclusion.

Nevertheless, we must not ignore the fact that our future European shows need to evolve. They must remain financially viable whilst meeting the needs of our breeders in these rapidly changing times.

The 'Future' working group has been looking closely at precisely these issues. Initial proposals were presented yesterday at the round-table meeting. The task now is to flesh these out further in collaboration with the organisers of the next European Show, so that the upcoming event is a resounding success for both exhibitors and organisers alike.

This brings me straight to the 'Future' working group I mentioned earlier. In my view, this group has done an excellent job. Many important issues were discussed and backed up with concrete measures. Some of these have already been implemented by the EE Executive Committee. You will receive further information on this as we go through today's agenda.

Another key concern for us was the issue of 'Protection of the Rings' – that is, the protection of our rings and markings. It is unacceptable that associations which are not members of the EE should be allowed to use our mark, whilst our own member associations are prohibited from doing so.

We have therefore decided to take consistent steps to protect the EE brand. This requires a minor adjustment to the markings on the rings. The relevant details were presented yesterday at the section meetings of the pigeon and poultry fanciers.

It was particularly pleasing that the three European ring manufacturers were also present and able to showcase their companies. We are also confident that we will be able to secure these companies as sponsors for the EE in the future.

Looking ahead, we have also begun developing a modern communication strategy for our association. This is based on our website, a newsletter and our activities on Facebook. At the same time, we intend to make greater use of modern communication channels and influencers to reach younger people in particular. The newsletter in particular has already proved to be a great success: last year, we recorded over 500 new subscriptions. If you have not yet subscribed to the newsletter, you can do so at any time via our website under the 'Newsletter' menu item.

Another focus of our future work will be animal and species conservation. In our view, this issue is of central importance for the future of small animal breeding in Europe. Naturally, the specific characteristics and circumstances of each country must be taken into account.

Yesterday's meeting served initially as an initial assessment of the situation and as a basis for further cooperation.

It is also our aim to establish the Entente Européenne more firmly in future as a representative body vis-à-vis the European Union. Initial discussions have already taken place with MEP Ms Noichl, who is a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture. Further meetings will follow in the course of this year. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Executive Committee. They do an enormous amount of work – and they do so on a voluntary basis, without remuneration or attendance fees.

Over the past few years, we have developed an excellent working relationship here. It is a pleasure to serve on this committee and to shape the future of small animal breeding in Europe together.

For it is not just the Presidium, but all of us here in this room who are pursuing the same goal: to achieve the best for small animal breeding and for our associations.

To conclude, I would like to return once more to my opening statement:

"The best way to predict the future is to shape it."

Let us begin doing so together. Thank you very much."

Vice-President Edin Jabandžić presents the President's report for the election

Resolution: The President's report is unanimously approved.

5. Report of the Secretary General

The past year has been full of encounters and activities. Numerous meetings took place, particularly in the run-up to the European Show in Nitra.

After seven years during which breeders had no opportunity to meet to exchange advice and animals, this show – featuring the five sections and showcasing around 25,000 animals – proved to be a particularly enriching weekend. My heartfelt thanks go to the organisers and, in particular, to the volunteers who worked so hard to ensure the success of this show.

I represented the EE at the national shows in Germany and Luxembourg. A big thank you to the organisers for their warm welcome, and to the breeders who presented high-quality animals, thereby doing great credit to our small animal breeding sector.

During the show in Nitra, we had the opportunity to exchange views with many of you. In particular, we discussed at length with our Polish friends the possibility of organising a European exhibition in Kielce in 2028. As we are aware of the considerable costs involved in such an undertaking, we are working alongside them to find solutions that will help reduce the running costs of such an event. I would like to thank the association for their openness and for the fruitful discussions that took place during our meetings.

Together with my fellow breeders from Luxembourg, we met with Ms Martine Hansen, the Luxembourg Minister for Agriculture. The agenda for the meeting included the topics of the 'End of Cage Age' for rabbits, the development of a vaccine against avian influenza for poultry, and the transport of our animals to cross-border exhibitions.

She also gave me the contact details so that we can register our breeds to help preserve the genetic resources of domestic animals. It is important that every country registers its breeds with the ERFP. And at this point, I would like to thank our Luxembourgish friends for their support during the meeting.

Erik reported on this to you at the meeting of the Committee on Animal Health and Welfare. The document is available from me on request.

Our articles of association have been recognised in Luxembourg, meaning that the EE is now recognised as an association. We also attempted to open a bank account in Luxembourg, but unfortunately this attempt was not successful.

I would now like to ask you to do the following: if there are any changes within your association or if your email address changes, please email me your contact details. This will help to avoid many typing errors.

I wish you and your breeders every success with your breeding and hope to see you at one or other of the shows.

Thank you very much for your attention"

The President asks the meeting if there are any questions or comments. As there are none, he asks them to approve the Secretary General's report.

Resolution: the Secretary General's report is unanimously approved.

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

Poultry: Andy Verelst

The Poultry Section held a very successful meeting, which lasted from the morning until late afternoon; 20 countries were represented, including Latvia, a new candidate country. As there were many new faces present, we began, as usual, with a round of introductions so that we could get to know one another. Once the usual formalities had been dealt with, the President briefed the members on the Presidium's current business. Naturally, we also looked back on the European Show in Nitra, which was generally regarded as a success; only a few areas for improvement were identified.

Following the review, we turned our attention to the future and approved six new applications for breed-specific European shows over the next two years.

We also finalised the host countries for our next judges' conferences: 2027 in Romania, 2028 in Denmark and 2029 in Germany. An additional training session is also planned for 2027 in Poland to prepare the local judges for the next European Show.

Pigeons: August Heftberger

According to the registration figures, the section meeting was attended by 32 delegates from 19 countries.

The agenda comprised 14 items, which were dealt with efficiently.

Looking back on the 30th EE Show in Nitra, the Pigeon Section was able to report largely positive results. Special thanks here to the division team led by Ing. Marian Macko.

The RBES for the Vienna and Budapest tumblers was permitted to be held with the EE exception. This was presented by the organisers in an unprecedented public display. That was brilliant!!

The three ring manufacturers in the EE presented their companies and master rings.

The EE nations will have the opportunity to order the EE-protected foot rings from one of these companies, expected to be available from 1 January 2027.

President Opala gave a brief overview of the results of the working group 'Future of the EE'.

The ESKT Chair gave a brief report on the concerns and motions of the nations. In future, there are also to be online meetings within the ESKT.

Four Breed-Specific European Shows (RBES) have been approved for the 2026 season. To date, eight RBES have been approved for the years 2027–2029. The relevant dates will be published on the EE website. The International Judges' Conference will take place from 17–19 September 2026, covering the poultry section, in Banja Luka (BIH). The minutes will be published on the website in three languages.

Birds: Klaas Snijder

"Dear Delegates,

The Birds Section held a productive meeting yesterday. We discussed the exhibition in Nitra with a view to learning from it.

We are currently working on drawing up a new show class programme and implementing the show regulations.

We have also been in contact with Mr Promberger for some time regarding the implementation of the exhibition programme used in Poland.

The delegates from eight countries were proud and delighted yesterday at the nomination of a new member for our Section. We hope that

Bulgaria will receive your approval to be admitted into the large EE family.

There was also time to discuss the problems in countries where things are not going so well. For example, in Switzerland, where two organisations are in conflict. Unfortunately, neither party was present.

There were three changes to the Executive Committee: Sven Pukat becomes the new Vice-President, succeeding Jan van Looy. Winnie Pukat succeeds Sven as Secretary. In the Standards Committee, Henk Jansen is stepping down after many successful years and will be replaced by Sven Pukat.

All in all, it was a good meeting, which we rounded off with a beer.

Yesterday afternoon, after the section meeting, I spoke to the Polish delegation about the upcoming EE European Exhibition. I am delighted with the commitment that the organisation will amend its statutes this summer to establish a bird section as well. After the summer, we will intensify our contacts.

I am therefore very confident that the Poles will organise a magnificent European Show."

Rabbits: Wolfgang Vogt

"From 13 to 17 May 2026, the conference of the Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture (EE) took place in Segovia, Spain. The Spanish association had organised the conference very well.

On Thursday, the Standard committees of the individual EE sections had already met. The section meetings followed on Friday. In the Rabbit Section, there was an extensive agenda to work through. Twenty-five people from 17 countries were present.

In his welcome address, the Chair of the Rabbit Section, Wolfgang Vogt, addressed the declining membership figures and issues relating to animal welfare. The new EE standard for the Rabbit Section has proved very popular and was used for the first time at the 2025 EE Show in Nitra, Slovakia. The judges' training course held from 13 to 15 March 2026 in Cluj-Napoca (Klausenburg), Romania, was also a success, with judges from 19 nations taking part.

In the report covering the more than ten EE Executive Committee meetings – most of which were held online, with one taking place in person – the possible future

structure of the EE was discussed, amongst other things. EE President Hansjörg Opala later gave a presentation on the current points of discussion within the "EE Future" Commission. Another key focus over the past year was the preparation for the 30th European Rabbit Show, to be held from 4 to 9 November 2025 in Nitra, Slovakia. Discussions are currently underway regarding the hosting of the 31st EE Show in 2028 in Kielce, Poland. In the rabbit sector, this also involves the issue of securing sufficient enclosures.

The 2027 EE judge training course is scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 March 2027 in Ribnitz-Damgarten, Germany (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Regional Association). Various accommodation options will be offered, as it is not possible to accommodate all participants in a single hotel. In 2028, the EE judge training course may possibly be held in Poland. Furthermore, Hungary is under discussion as the host for one of the next EE judge training courses.

The meeting of the EE-Standards Committee for the Rabbit Section in February 2026 focused on a number of organisational matters. Several decisions were taken at the meeting in Segovia. The previous chair of the EE Standard Committee for the Rabbit Section, Roland Ohlinger, has stepped down from his post. Markus Eber was elected as his successor. The meeting also dealt with a number of items of correspondence. In Austria, for example, issues relating to over-typing are now covered in supplementary sheets to the EE Standard. The EE Standard has now also included the Little Vienna in the colour varieties wild, dark grey, iron grey and white/blue eyes. Furthermore, the colour varieties havana-white, chinchilla-white and blue-grey-white have been added for the Mecklenburg Piebalds. In addition, the weight of the Hare rabbits has been adjusted and the ear length increased. Furthermore, additions have been made to the general section regarding minor and major faults, such as deep-set eyes, deviations from the normal ear position, etc. The changes will be published on the EE website and are also due to appear later as supplementary sheets. The supplementary sheets are also intended to address other faults that have arisen. Members of the EE-Standard Commission for the Rabbit Section had noticed during the judging of the EE Show in Nitra, Slovakia, that there was sometimes insufficient differentiation within the individual

categories. Furthermore, the awarding of prizes should be handled with greater care.

However, any complaints that arose were successfully resolved in collaboration with the organising association.

The 30th European Show and 6th European Youth Show, held from 4 to 9 November 2025 in Nitra, Slovakia, was – following seven years without a joint European exhibition for all five sections – above all an important occasion for exchange and socialising among breeders from across Europe. The rabbit section was well represented here with around 10,000 pedigree rabbits. The topic of animal welfare was then discussed in more detail. The legal framework conditions vary greatly across the individual member countries. It is the EE's task to bring these together and find a workable middle ground.

EE President Hansjörg Opala then reported on the findings of the "EE Future" committee. The committee had examined a wide range of topics and initially sent the identified areas to the participants of the EE conference as headings without detailed points. Participants were then able to name their three most important topics in advance. The main topics that emerged were EE shows, EE conferences and the training of judges. These topics were then discussed in more detail by the participants during a round-table discussion on Friday afternoon from 4.30 pm. A separate session on animal welfare was also held on Friday afternoon from 2.30 pm. The remaining topics are to be discussed further during online meetings so as not to lose too much time. We should not stand in the way of improvements here.

The following breed-specific European shows are currently scheduled for 2026/2027:

- Hermelin, Miniature und Dwarf Lop

23.-25.10.2026 - KTZV Messegelände, Haus Nr. 130, Záhoví, Czech Republic

- Hare rabbits, Polish and Lothringer

28.-29.11.2026 - Salle Polyvalente Corderie, 4 Rue Vincent Indy, 67260 Sarre-Union, France

- Thüringer, Sallander and Separator

05.-06.12.2026 - Gartenbaubetrieb Elbers, Ottersweg 6, 47624 Kevelaer, Germany

- Rex, Little-Rex, Rex Lop and Dwarf Lop

11.- 13.12.2026 - Messehalle Zeppelinstraße 11, 66953 Pirmasens, Germany

- Rhoen, Tan Rabbits, Perlfeh, Lynx and Marburger Feh

09.- 10.01.2027 - Bogenbinderhalle, Rosa-Luxemburg-Straße 4, 07580 Ronneburg, Germany

- White Kemp, Rhoen and Black Kemp

30.- 31.10.2027 - Haus der Vereine, Carl-Kirchhof-Straße 27, 09232 Hartmannsdorf, Germany

- Giants, Silver Rabbits

05.-07.11.2027 - Bernsteinreiter, Neuklockenhäger Weg 1a, 18311 Ribnitz-Damgarten, Germany

- Rex, Little-Rex, Dwarf Rex , Dwarf lop Rex

06.-07.11.2027 - Lanklaar, Belgium

Markus Eber gave PowerPoint presentations on the Little Vienna breed and on the topic 'Every breed has its own type'. When it comes to the inclusion of further breeds in the EE-Standard, the initiative must come from the respective member countries. Erik Aperlo, as Chair of the Animal Welfare Advisory Board, reported on current issues relating to animal welfare.

Regula Schweizer's report highlighted numerous Kanin-Hop tournaments and training sessions for Kanin-Hop judges across the individual countries. Furthermore, four online meetings were held at EE level. These focused in particular on preparations for the 10th

Kanin-Hop European Championships from 9 to 11 October 2026 in Båstad, Sweden. Consequently, the allocation criteria for the 700 starting places were adjusted. Furthermore, training for the referees is required for the European Championships, as the regulations differ in some respects.

This year, elections were also held once again within the Rabbit Division.

Markus Eber was confirmed as the new chair of the Rabbit Section's EE Standards Committee. Miroslav Gira from Slovakia was appointed as the new secretary of the Rabbit Section's EE Standards Committee. Next year, the currently vacant post of secretary of the Rabbit Section will need to be filled. A call for applications will be issued for this position. The section meeting ended at 3.52 pm.

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.

Yesterday we had a little strong group presented and some countries online. We discussed our breed show in October in Poland and hope for a big entry. We thanked Eva Bednakova and all people that help her making Nitra a successful show.

> In March we had a very successful seminar in Poland with about 40 judges. A big thank to the organiser. Only a small change in standard about Swiss teddy according to the seminar. Our new version of standard will be on the website for free before the show.

> Our biggest issue is to find an organizer to our seminar and show 2027. So please help me.

> Our section is still growing, and it is great honour to soon say welcome to Bulgaria new in cavies and to England an historic cavy country.

> Finally a big thanks to Andrea, who made all our paperwork this weekend.

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

Dear breeding friends,

As has been mentioned frequently this weekend, we experienced a highlight last year with the European Show for all 5 of our sections, which was finally

able to take place again after a long time. As the Committee for Animal Health and Welfare, this was also the main focus of the past year. As every year, the main topics discussed in the committee are: rules and legislation, animal diseases, housing and care, and excessive breed characteristics.

All four of these topics also proved to be applicable to the European Show. In order to discuss this properly, and because we noticed over the past few years that our contribution during the section meetings was becoming increasingly significant, we decided to schedule a separate session for our committee for the first time this year.

Although the larger sections of our association had not yet finished their meetings, we started our session with about 30 participants. During the meeting, in the first part, we discussed what we, as EE and Beirat, are doing to raise awareness of our hobby and also indicated where we believe the opportunities lie for a national association to express itself effectively. In the second part, we evaluated the European Show in Nitra regarding animal welfare and animal health.

The entire event can certainly be considered a success for small animal enthusiasts. Within our area of focus, matters were in order. While the intentions to safeguard animal health and welfare were certainly present, we must also conclude that improvement is needed in the execution in several areas. Importantly, all animals arrived safely and, as far as we understand, returned home safely. As a committee, we will compile the collected information into a recommendation for future European exhibitions so that they can benefit from it.

I believe we can look back on a successful meeting, and this is certainly worth repeating in the coming years. The presentation held will be posted on the website so that you can find the information and make use of it.

Thank you for your attention!

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

The treasurer, Jean-Maurice Tièche, presents the financial report for the year 2026.

The report shows a deficit, as the Slovakian federation has deferred the payment of €1 per animal until January 2026. This amount is therefore included in this year's accounts.

Income :	28 715,16 €
Expenditure:	35 334,60 €
Deficit	- 6 619,44 €

He then presented the cash flow forecast up to 2028.

The two elected auditors, Willy Littau and Roland Olinger, are absent this year. Andrea Kroftová, who was elected as a substitute auditor last year, carried out the audit of the accounts alongside Sven Pukat, who volunteered to assist her.

Andrea's report:

" On 15 May, in collaboration with Sven Pukat, we audited the association's accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2025. The audit covered the accounting records, bank statements and all supporting documents relating to income and expenditure for the financial year in question.

Following our audit, we find that the accounts have been kept in a proper and accurate manner. The transactions recorded in the accounts tally with the supporting documents presented, and the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the association's assets, liabilities, financial position and results.

In the course of our audit, no particular irregularities were found. We therefore propose that the General Meeting approve the annual accounts for the 2025 financial year and discharge the Treasurer and the Executive Committee from liability for their management.

As there are no abstentions or votes against, I thank you

Resolution : The cash report and the discharge of the treasurer and the chair were approved unanimously.

Many thanks to Jean-Maurice Tièche and the auditors.

9. Final report on the EE-Show 2025 in Nitra

The chairman of the Slovakian Association, Štefan Henžel, reports:

"The 30th European Show and the 6th European Youth Show, which took place from 7 to 9 November 2025, represented a significant international event in European breeding and, at the same time, a worthy showcase of the work of breeders, experts and the younger generation from 23 European countries, who together presented more than 23,000 animals in the categories of poultry, rabbits, pigeons, guinea pigs and exotic birds. At the outset of this final report, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all exhibitors for their participation, the high standard of the animals exhibited and for representing their countries. Their willingness to participate and to present the results of their work contributed significantly to the success of the entire exhibition.

I would like to extend my special thanks to my extensive organising team, who carried out their duties with exceptional responsibility and professionalism both during the very short preparation period of just nine months and throughout the event itself. I would also like to thank the contact persons from the various specialist departments and all the breeders' associations for their active cooperation, coordination and support in ensuring the success of this significant European event. I would also like to thank the management of the European Federation for the opportunity to organise this anniversary European Show in Slovakia. The financial aspect of this exhibition was not positive for the Slovak Breeders' Association; nevertheless, all our financial obligations to the judges,

contact persons and the European Federation were settled within a relatively short time after the exhibition.

The preparations themselves required a great deal of dedication and patience in dealing with unforeseen circumstances that affected the financial aspects of the show.

From the organiser's perspective, the main shortcomings were: - The work of the international jury for poultry, pigeons and rabbits, which failed to organise the judging of the animals adequately and did not deliver the judging results within the specified deadline. This subsequently led to incomplete judging results and prize-awarding, and undermined all the work of the exhibition committee, not to mention the higher costs incurred in producing the catalogue. Furthermore, visitors to the exhibition were unable to purchase the catalogue at the exhibition's opening, which also resulted in financial losses from the sale of catalogues.

- Accommodation for members of the European Association's Executive Committee that had not been cancelled and had to be paid for by the organiser.

Inappropriate funding from the Commission for exotic birds, which entailed extremely high financial costs.

Every event has its positive and negative aspects. I am pleased that the positive aspects outweighed the negative. I would particularly like to mention the electronic registration of breeders for the exhibition, the smooth online purchase of birds, the successful breeders' evening, the forging of new friendships amongst breeders, and the expansion of the stock in our breeding programmes.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity to bring the European exhibition back to proud Slovakia after 16 years, thereby confirming the capabilities of the members of the Slovak Breeders' Association."

10. Brief Report: Future Working Group

Over the past year, the Future Working Group has been working intensively on the challenges facing our renewable energy strategy. We discussed the approach, content and results in detail during yesterday's round-table meeting. I therefore do not wish to go into these topics again.

Let me make one thing clear at this point: this is an evolution, not a revolution! We must respond to the challenges of the future. And one further point: the work has only just begun. We still have a long way to go. The next steps:

- Distributing the final report to the presidents of the member associations
- Discussing the results in two further video conferences • Defining measures
- Adopting the 'Vision 2035' However, let me take this opportunity to revisit the points that are already being implemented or are due to be implemented in the foreseeable future.
- Verabschiedung der «Vision 2035»

However, at this point, let me go back over the points that are already being implemented or are due to be implemented in the near future.

- EE-Meeting

- Expanding the range of content (e.g. to include animal welfare)
- More effective communication of the conference outcomes through the provision of a communication pack
- Shortening the Renewable Energy Conference in 2027 (as a pilot project)
- Introduction of a participation fee (excluding accommodation costs) in 2027
- Durchführung zusätzlicher Online-Meetings (viertel- oder halbjährlich; für 2026 im Juli und September geplant)
- Start of the development of a communications strategy (e.g. website, newsletter, Facebook, influencer marketing)
- Protection of the rings

In 2027, decisions are to be taken on, amongst other things: • The introduction of section-specific renewable energy exhibitions (four-year plan) • Changes to the renewable energy exhibitions, e.g. national stands, contact persons, digital catalogue, a 'show within a show' for guinea pigs • The admission of supporting members from outside Europe.

11. Votes

Gion Gross, Honorary President, is responsible for organising the elections.

11.1 Election of the President

Hansjörg Opala, President, wishes to stand for re-election. There are no other candidates. A secret ballot has not been requested.

Resolution: Hansjörg Opala is elected unanimously

11.2 Election of the Treasurer

Jean-Maurice Tièche is standing for re-election. No other nominations were submitted by the deadline. A secret ballot will not be requested.

Resolution: Jean-Maurice Tièche is elected unanimously

Power of attorney for the President and the Treasurer

Under Luxembourg law, the general meeting of EE must grant the board of directors the power to manage the company's finances during their term of office.

Resolution: The General Meeting unanimously grants the President and the Treasurer power of attorney over the funds.

11.3 Election of a substitute auditor

Sven Pukat was nominated as the division's representative. There are no other nominations.

Resolution: Sven Pukat has been appointed as a substitute auditor.

12. Honours

No applications for honorary membership have been submitted.

It is not the sole prerogative of the Executive Committee to nominate honorary members. Such nominations may also come from the associations. However, candidates must have made a contribution to the EE itself, and not merely to their own association.

13. Applications

No applications were submitted by either EE or the associations.

14. European show 2028 in Kielce / PO

The chairman of the Polish association, Edward Gerstyn, reports that following several meetings in collaboration with the management of the Tarki Kielce Exhibition Centre, the European Show will go ahead. The 31st EE European Exhibition is scheduled to take place from 14 to 19 November 2028 in modern halls covering an area of 50,000 m². The halls feature catering facilities and a conference hall. A modern conference centre is also available. The exhibition grounds offer ample parking. The city of Kielce has a wide range of hotels. The Kielce exhibition grounds are located close to the A57 motorway.

15. Admission and exclusion of members

All members have paid their membership fees, so no one has been expelled.

The Vice-President, Edin Jabandžić, welcomes the new members and invites them to introduce themselves.

Birds and Cavy sections Bulgaria: Sasho Sarandev reports

The UFSDABB was officially founded in 1983. Over the years, we have continually strived to develop the hobby in our country and to enhance the culture, awareness and expertise of breeders. Initially, we started with two sections – pigeons and poultry. In recent years, we have added the rabbit, bird and cavy sections, for which high-quality breeding stock was acquired from leading breeders and from the European Exhibition in Nitra, with the aim of improving our breeders' gene pool. Every year on the last weekend in August, we organise judging seminars aimed not only at judges but also at ordinary breeders. These seminars cover specialist topics such as genetics, diseases, good breeding practices and much more. We invite both speakers and guests from other countries. Our seminars are open to absolutely anyone who wishes to learn something useful and interesting about our hobby.

From this year onwards, we are increasing the number of judging seminars to two or three per year; due to the growing interest – sparked by all the factors mentioned above – these will be held at various locations. The exhibitions we organise each year include club, regional and national events, where visitors can enjoy exhibits representing all five sections of UFSDABB. The National Exhibition is the highlight of the breeding year for us. Several club exhibitions organised by the country's leading clubs also take place as part of this event. We strive for continuous development through ambitious goals, and our inclusion in the Birds and Cavy sections is one of them! The National Exhibition is the highlight of the breeding year for us. We strive for continuous development through ambitious goals, and our inclusion in the Birds and Cavy sections is one of them!

England Cavia: was presented by Jme Eglington-Parkes

The National Cavy Club (NCC) is the leading organisation in the United Kingdom dedicated to the breeding, showing and promotion of Cavies. It is one of the oldest specialist animal clubs in the country and continues to play a central role in the organised hobby often referred to as 'cavy fancy'.

Founded in 1888 during the Victorian era, when organised breeding and exhibitions were gaining popularity, the National Club was established to bring enthusiasts together and to establish standards within the hobby.

Over the years, the association has maintained a consistent presence, adapting to developments in animal welfare and exhibition practices whilst preserving the traditions of guinea pig breeding and exhibition. In its early years, the NCC played a decisive role in providing much-needed structure to a growing hobby. It established rules for competitions, promoted organised exhibitions, and worked to standardise the appearance and quality of various guinea pig breeds. These efforts contributed to consistent judging and laid the foundation for the development of recognised breeds. As interest in this hobby grew, the club became a focal point for enthusiasts across the country, fostered a network of regional clubs and encouraged the exchange of knowledge among breeders.

A significant institutional development took place in 1977 with the establishment of the British Cavy Council. The NCC played a key role in its formation, and the creation of this new body led to a clearer division of responsibilities within the guinea pig breeding community. Whilst the NCC continued to focus on organising shows, supporting affiliated clubs and fostering the show community, the British Cavy Council took on responsibility for breed standards and the management of specialist associations for specific breeds. This separation enabled a more structured and specialised approach to the administration of the hobby.

In addition to its shows, the National Cavy Club runs a highly regarded breeding programme, under which awards are presented based on performance within each breed. This programme is designed to encourage participation and foster a healthy competitive spirit amongst exhibitors. Championships are awarded to show animals that demonstrate consistently outstanding performance and achieve repeated success over a prolonged period through sustained quality, dedication and

achievement. One of the club's main events, the combined breeding exhibition, takes place annually in June in Staffordshire. It attracts exhibitors from across the United Kingdom and Europe and showcases more than 900 covies each year, making it a highlight of the country's exhibition calendar.

The past: The NCC was founded in 1888 to organise cavy shows in the United Kingdom. The NCC established the British Cavy Council to drive the development of new breed standards.

The future: We would like to stream further training events via video conference worldwide so that those who cannot attend in person can also take part. By joining the EE, we hope to bring together English and European Covies enthusiasts.

The Vice-President asks the General Assembly to approve the three new associations.

Resolution: the admission of the 3 new associations was unanimously accepted.

16.Information of the EE meeting 2027

Fatos Islami, Chairman of the Kosovo Association, presents the 2027 conference via video: "Dear delegates and friends, it is a great honour for me to stand before you here in Segovia today. I represent the breeders and enthusiasts of Kosovo – a country with a heritage that is as rich as it is resilient, and a passion for our shared traditions that shines brighter than ever. Looking to the future of the Entente Européenne, I am delighted to officially invite you to the 2027 General Assembly in Kosovo. For us, hosting this event is more than just a logistical milestone: it is an opportunity to open our doors to the European community and showcase the extraordinary dedication of our local breeders. From our historic high-flying pigeon breeds to our unique ornamental breeds, Kosovo's culture of birds and small animals is a living part of our national identity. We are fully committed to ensuring that your stay in 2027 is characterised by the following:

- Warm Balkan hospitality: Experience the genuine hospitality for which our people are renowned.
- Cultural discoveries: Explore a country where tradition meets modernity and a spirit of optimism.
- Professional excellence: A well-organised forum to continue the important work of protecting and promoting our shared heritage.

We would like to reciprocate the kindness shown to us here in Spain and show you the very best our country has to offer. We look forward to welcoming the entire Entente family to Kosovo in 2027. Thank you very much and see you soon in Kosovo!".

The Polish Association would like to host the 2028 congress in Wroclaw. The hotel will be located near the Old Town, so that accompanying persons can easily visit it.

Luxembourg would also be interested in hosting a conference.

17. Suggestions and wishes

There are no suggestions or requests.

18. Miscellaneous

The President:

"Before I bring today's General Meeting to a close, I have a few more points to raise:

Time and again, we find that not all the information you have received here is actually passed on. It is not productive if you simply spend a few pleasant days here. Please now share the information you have received here with your associations, write an article for your association's newsletter, and present it at your associations' meetings.

To this end, you will receive a communication pack following this conference containing all the key facts about this event.

Visit us regularly www.entente-ee.eu, you will receive the latest updates there on an ongoing basis.

Subscribe to our newsletter. You can do this on our website as well.

Our membership records are a perennial issue; they are only as up to date as you keep them. When we send out group emails, dozens are frequently returned because the address is incorrect, the person is no longer in office or has even passed away. Please send our General Secretary your up-to-date details.

I'll conclude now.

If there are any delegates attending a conference for the last time this year because they are stepping down from their posts, I would ask them to stand up now so that we can bid them a fitting farewell.

I would like to thank you once again for the numerous invitations to your events, which I accept where possible or pass on to a member of the Presidium. The earlier such invitations arrive, the greater the likelihood that a member of the Presidium will be able to attend. Such meetings are important; they foster mutual trust and provide an opportunity for bilateral discussions.

And, of course, I would also like to express my sincere thanks for sending us your association's magazines.

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

There are no objections.

Let us now look forward to what we hope will be many promising young animals, which I very much hope we will be able to show in the coming show season. May we be spared any events that might prevent us from exhibiting.

And now, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you all the very best, good luck, much joy with your animals and, above all, good health.

The 2026 General Assembly is closed.

End of the General Meeting: 11.54 pm

President:



Hansjörg Opala

General secretary



Jeannine Jehl

Right of reply from the Presidium regarding item 9 of the EE 2026 General Assembly: Final report on the EE 2025 exhibition in Nitra.

From the organiser's perspective, the main shortcomings were:

The work of the international jury for poultry, pigeons and rabbits, which failed to organise the judging of the animals adequately and did not deliver the judging results within the specified deadline. This subsequently led to incomplete judging results and prize-awarding, and undermined all the work of the exhibition committee, not to mention the higher costs incurred in producing the catalogue. Furthermore, visitors to the exhibition were unable to purchase the catalogue at the exhibition's opening, which also resulted in financial losses from the sale of catalogues.

Minutes Note of the EE Presidium:

The deadline for submitting the judging documents was brought forward several times by the organizer. As a result, the documents had to be submitted at 10:00 a.m. on the second day instead of the originally scheduled 3:00 p.m. Consequently, a significant amount of time for judging the exhibits and for the subsequent quality control of the judging documents was lost.

In addition, the start of judging on the first day was also rescheduled several times. At the organizer's request, the judges were present at 7:00 a.m. However, the exhibition halls were not opened by the organizer until 8:00 a.m. This hour was therefore also unavailable to the judges for carrying out their work.

Accommodation for members of the European Association's Executive Committee that had not been cancelled and had to be paid for by the organiser.

Minutes Note of the EE Presidium:

The Presidium wishes to place on record that all registered members of the Presidium were present. The members who were absent had been officially excused in advance by the EE Secretary General, who informed the organizing association of their absence on several occasions prior to the event.

Unreasonable requirements imposed by the Commission regarding exotic birds, which entailed extremely high financial costs.

Minutes Note of the EE Presidium:

The Bird Section comprises a wide variety of different species. For each group, specially trained judges are required. The expenses for these judges are necessary to ensure a proper and competent evaluation of the birds.