

## ***Brief minutes of the ECCF meeting within the XV Congress of European Mycologists***

***on 17 September, 2007 in Sanct-Petersburg, Russia***

The meeting took place according to the Congress timetable, in the evening on its first day, from 6.30 p.m. in Caramel room at the Congress venue, in Park Inn Pulkovskaya.

Here below there is a list of participants of the meeting (apologies for incomplete list):

Claudia Perini (Italy)	David Minter (EMA president)
Alexander Kovalenko (Russia)	Brian Spooner (UK)
Maria Ławrynowicz (Poland)	David Hawksworth (Spain)
Stephanos Diamandis (Greece)	Francisco Calonge (Spain)
André Fraiture (Belgium)	Leo van Griensven (Netherlands)
Heikki Kotiranta (Finland)	Reinhard Agerer (Germany)
Antonin Vladimír (Czech Republic)	Zacharoula Gonou-Zagou (Greece)
Evangelia Kapsanaki-Gotsi (Greece)	Irina Dudka (Ukraine)
Vera Hayova (Ukraine)	Greg Mueller (USA)

For various reasons not all ECCF members were able to be present at the meeting in Sanct-Petersburg. Unfortunately, ECCF president, Anders Bohlin (Sweden) could not come to attend the meeting due to health problem. The secretary, Beatrice Senn-Irlet (Switzerland), following her participation in the conference on conservation in Romania just before, could not arrive on time because of delayed flight. Nevertheless, majority of Executive Committee and many other representatives were present. After email communication and short discussion it was decided to hold the meeting at announced day and time. Despite rather late time the room was full including guests and Congress participants interested in conservation of fungi.

Claudia Perini (Italy), a long-standing Executive Committee member and Planta Europa representative, has kindly agreed to chair the meeting. She welcomed participants and guests and announced proposed agenda. At first she passed apologies from the President for his absence. She told about Anders Bohlin's address to ECCF members explaining that due to health state he is no longer able to be a president and therefore a replacement for this position is necessary. Before to start election she proposed on behalf of all ECCF to express gratitude to Anders Bohlin for his devoted service to fungal conservation for many years. The idea was accepted by audience with prolonged ovation. After that Claudia informed that following preliminary discussions in current situation it was proposed that Beatrice Senn-Irlet, well

known as active secretary, would be now appointed as president, while for the post of secretary a recent ECCF member, Vera Hayova (Ukraine) could be nominated. Any suggestions or other proposals were welcome. Both candidates for the positions were supported by members of ECCF and EMA (S. Diamandis, T. Schumacher, M. Ławrynowicz, D. Minter). Since there were no other candidates, both nominations were approved by voting. Claudia greeted newly elected president and secretary wishing them both successful work. Vera Hayova thanked for support and asked all members to be active in email communication between meetings and to respond sending requested information.

Claudia Perini reported about her participation in the 5th Planta Europa Conference on the conservation of wild plants and fungi in Europe held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania in September, 2007. The main results of the workshops during the conference were further steps in developing a new European Strategy for plants and fungi, which were integrated with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). In anticipation of the key political date for biodiversity of 2010 it was particularly important to emphasize attention to fungal component and fungi to be included into indicated targets and GSPC objectives. Among highlighted items was ongoing importance of assessing species conservation status and producing Red Lists - which goes well together with our plans to prepare European Red List of macrofungi. After the 5th Planta Europa Conference in Romania a new Steering Committee was elected to lead the Planta Europa Network. Claudia Perini became one of the members of the new Steering Committee – congratulations !

The next question was demonstration of the results of the ECCF project "Mapping and monitoring of macromycetes in Europe" prepared by André Fraiture (Belgium). The project was based on data collected by him together with Peter Otto (Germany) through the filled questionnaires sent by representatives of 35 countries. The information was analyzed, checked and unified. Maps of distribution for selected 50 rare species in Europe were produced, with indication of species occurrence in various countries before and after 1970. In fact, in a final version there will be maps of distribution for 51 species since it was decided to include both *Poronia punctata* and *P. erici*. At the meeting André Fraiture who made a presentation on the mapping project, suggested to show a few maps as an example, however, participants wanted to see more and finally all of the maps with pictures and comments were demonstrated. After making some corrections and additions (inspired by presentation), the maps will be published in 2008. It is successful output of the first collaborative project organized by ECCF on European level, which can be regarded as encouragement for future joint projects.

The nearest future project is European Red List of macrofungi to produce following IUCN criteria. This will be a big project and fund-raising is necessary. Current situation in conservation of fungi in Europe is being summarized in the report (updated version under preparation) containing

data from various countries. The report will be submitted to the European Council in order to apply again to Bern Convention for including fungi along with other living organisms.

As usually at the ECCF meeting, national representatives in more or less alphabetical order made short oral reports about the news in fungal conservation in different countries. These were mostly some new data or events that happened since previous ECCF meeting in Cordoba in November 2005, and in addition to mycological data collected in the mentioned above questionnaires, e.g. concerning accumulation and compiling data for Red lists of macrofungi (on local, regional and national level) and results of recent studies of rare fungal species in certain habitats. Some national or regional Red lists of macrofungi or updates for certain groups have been recently published (Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Russia). Some new activities in fungal conservation were introduced, for example, initiative of young people to exchange and collect information on rare fungi occurrence through internet (Poland). Speaking of exchange of experience on a wider scale, everybody welcomed the idea to develop international relations and cooperation on fungal conservation outside Europe, thanks to Greg Mueller (USA).

Before the end of the meeting Claudia Perini informed that following the 5th Planta Europa Conference, Romanian mycologists invited next ECCF meeting to take place in Romania, presumably in autumn 2008 (exact date to be finalized later). The next meeting is planned to be longer, with sufficient time for presentations and various discussions. National representatives and co-ordinators of specialized work-groups will be able to make reports and presentations during the next meeting, and prepare appropriate texts for the ECCF website.

After closing the meeting, despite dinner-time, participants did not leave at once and informal communication among members and guests still continued.

Thanks everybody for being interested in fungal conservation!

Vera Hayova, December 2007