

Minutes of the EATA delegates' meeting 2017 in Fulda at the Aquarium und Terrariumverein «Scalare»



1. Welcoming the participants

Present are delegates from VDA (4), DGHT (1), ÖVVÖ (1), SDAT (2), ARCAT (1), AKVACZ (1), FFA (1), ICAIF and BBAT are excused. No information about NBAT.

The President welcomes the participants and thanks the host Aquarium und Terrariumverein "Scalare" for the reception.

He suggested some changes to the agenda, which are accepted by the participants.

2. Acceptance of the 2016 Minutes

The 2016 minutes are also unanimously approved.

3 Annual Report of the President

He informs about the following elements:

Invasive species: several meetings of the PAG were held at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in Bonn and Berlin.

Development of strategy and criteria for scientifically sound assessment of the invasiveness of species. It has been proposed by the EU to include other genera and species on the list (*Channa* species, **pumpkinseed** (sunfish), small North American catfish). The VDA prefers the possibility to allow for country-specific or regional prohibitions. The current proposal for the genus *Channa* has been rejected with a request for revision.

Exopet study: there are already results for amphibians and reptiles. The part about fish is currently under construction. Stefan Hetz is involved as scientific advisory for amphibians, reptiles and fish (via Humboldt University-Berlin).

Results: Trade performs relatively poorly, hobby and organized aquaristic relatively well. Action is needed in the area of commercial exchanges and on-line trading.

Members of the Exopet project are working on a revision of the minimum requirements for animal husbandry for Germany.

Stefan Hetz provides information on current political developments in Wildlife exchanges ban in Austria, positive lists in Netherlands / Belgium and Norway, checklists for animal markets in Germany / Niedersachsen.

The Exopet study continues. Exopet considers positive lists inappropriate. The SPD, Greens and ProWildlife think the opposite. An alternative proposal is to require everyone to get a certificate of competence.

Stefan Hetz reports on numerous other meetings and activities related to animal welfare.

4. Acceptance of the annual financial statements / auditors' report

The cash register report is checked and accepted by the delegates with one abstention.

5. Determination of the annual contribution

It will probably be necessary in future to have more money. The question therefore arises as to whether we should increase the annual fee. It is noted that the contributions should also depend on the size of the associations and that the associations should discuss about this. Next year we will have to decide on a possible increase of the annual fee. Currently the contribution stays at € 50.

6. Resolutions on proposed amendments to the statutes

Röbi proposes changes to the statutes:

4.3 (Admission procedure: provisionally by the Board, definitely by the Delegate Meeting)

8.7 Deadline will be reduced to 30 days

8.9 Decisions of the DM can also be taken by communication.

9.1 Re-election of the Executive Board is possible

9.2 The board consists of (...)

9.3 For each position, a deputy is elected if possible.

The question is asked if two years are not too short to make a difference. It is proposed to choose a duration of 4 years, as in politics. This proposal is accepted by all delegates.

In 9.3 "if possible" is deleted.

Deleted: 10.1 The President represents EATA with authorities or associations. He determines over any representations by other board members

New: 10.1 The President represents EATA with authorities or other associations. He determines any representations by other board members.

To be completed: 11.1 Vice-President 1 will provide EATA external contacts (commissions in Brussels, OFI, BNA, etc.) **as specified by the Board.**

12.3 Vice-President 2 ensures the organization of ordinary or extraordinary DM

If there are elections, it should be noted in the Minutes when the function begins.

These changes are accepted unanimously.

7. Information from the associations

ÖVVÖ: In Austria, the new Animal Welfare Act brings tightening of Internet sales. An umbrella organization of knowledgeable pet owners was founded (ÖDAST). Also a youth project was started. Erik Schiller coordinates the conservation breeding projects. They are also trying to deepen cooperation with Megazoo / Fressnapf.

SDAT: A new "Basic Course Aquarium Fish and Animal Protection" with Kompanima (Animal Welfare Competence Center Switzerland) is now available. Second course on 21.10.2017 in Wohlen. Aquaterra has been replaced by an on-line version. The grant from the FBA was renewed. They are currently preparing a "strategy paper".

8. Website - Homepage - Social Media

An EATA homepage exists but it is not very attractive. We further have no direct access. Stefan Hetz plans to design a new homepage by the end of the year. A new Facebook appearance is

also being prepared.

Social Media: EATA should have a Facebook presence. Stefan has created an EATA account. However, it should also be managed in other languages.

9. Statement by the President

Our President has held many local and national meetings. The EU is currently only providing information, unfortunately there is no active participation. There are problems, as he has less and less time available. The division of tasks in the EATA should also be better solved. The distribution of information should be simplified. We need a politician and an official representative in Brussels. There are further questions to be asked: what is our position on the commercial trade, how do we officially act on issues related to animal welfare? Should we, as EATA, have a **Code of Conduct**, or Code of Ethics, which would be generally accepted by all EATA members when it comes to dealing with questions in the public and when dealing with animals? We should think about that and decide next year.

10. Acceptance of DGHT as an EATA member

During the DM, the official request of the DGHT to become a member of EATA is received via e-mail. DGHT is unanimously accepted by the delegates as a member.

11. Board election

Peter Sound presents his CV and is elected as EATA President. Stefan Hetz is elected as Vice President 1 (Foreign Minister). Vice President 2 remains Erich Bühlmann. Treasurer remains JJ. Eckert. Thierry de Coulon remains secretary. Röbi Guggenbühl and Petr Dvorak are elected as auditors.

Deputies: as deputies are elected:

President: Jens Crüger

Vice President1: Peter Sound

Vice President 2: Gerhard Gabler

Treasurer: Werner Witopil

Scripture: Erich Bühlmann

12. Common projects of EATA

Breeding / maintenance breeding. Framework conditions must be clearly defined.

The idea, e.g. to organize a species from Bolivia, with the aim of keeping the species alive in the aquarium. In this context, various questions arise: what about animals that have not been "exported" with official permission from the country? How to avoid that the "breeders" give up after a short time and all animals are lost?

It is decided to try and see how it works. Röbi Guggenbühl thinks about it.

11. Miscellaneous

Delegate's meeting 2018: on September 15, 2018 in Vienna

Meeting ends at 15h15