



SOCIETAS EUROPAEA HERPETOLOGICA

SEH Council (2011-2013): C. Corti (President), U. Fritz (Vice President), A.R. Di Cerbo (General Secretary), J. Crnobrnja-Isailovich (Vice Secretary), S. Hauswaldt (Treasurer), P. Lymberakis (Vice Treasurer), S. Steinfartz (First Co-Editor), S. Ursenbacher (Second Co-Editor)

Prot. n. I-2014/02, Date: February 5th 2014

VESZPRÉM AUGUST 24ST, 2013 -ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, 2013

MINUTES

Venue: University of Pannonia, 8200 Veszprém, Egyetem út 10.

Dates: August 24rd 2013; **Time:** 17:00 – 19:00

Council members:

Present: C. Corti (President), U. Fritz (Vice President), A.R. Di Cerbo (General Secretary), J. Crnobrnja-Isailović (Vice Secretary), S. Hauswaldt (Treasurer), P. Lymberakis (Vice Treasurer), S. Steinfartz (First Co-Editor)

Absent: S. Ursenbacher (Second Co-Editor)

Invited members:

Present: T. Gent (Chairman of the Conservation Committee), N. Sillero (Chairman of the Mapping Committee).

SEH members present at OGM: 42

Report of the President. Dr C. Corti reports on her engagement in the name of the Society within period 2011-2013. She acknowledges the Council and all those members who gave their contribution to fulfill the targets of the Society such as: a) supporting the conservation action aimed to save the habitat of *Salamandra atra aurorae*; b) the management of the conservation grant (in particular: P. Lymberakis); the review of the statute and related bylaws in order to harmonize them with the German rules (followed by S. Hauswaldt and U. Fritz); the new website (U. Fritz and E. Razzetti); the new European Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles managed by N. Sillero. She also thanks Prof. W. Böhme for his friendly assistance during her visit to the Library of the Herpetological Department of the Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig in Bonn where most of the Society paperwork is stored. In this regard an official

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agreement between the Forschungsmuseum A. Koenig in Bonn (where the Society was founded) and the SEH to keep the Society archive is envisaged. The Society was officially represented by S. Hauswaldt, J. Crnobrnja-Isailović, S. Ursenbacher and her at the World Congress of Herpetology held in 2012 in Vancouver (Canada) which resulted in an increased interest of the overseas colleagues to participate to the SEH OGM in Vezsprem.

Report of the Treasurer. S. Hauswaldt updates on the status of the Society. Currently, SEH includes 245 members (146 ordinary, 23 online, 13 student, 8 corporate, 50 no journal, 3 honorary, 2 affiliated). During 2013 the Society members increased (41). She reports the SEH statement (final balance at December 31st, 2011 Euro 36.194,30 at December 31st, 2012 Euro 21.395,60). The incomes originate from membership fees, donations and varia (e.g., Umbuchung Sparkonto, Girokonto).

The Society invests money to promote herpetological projects like the SEH mapping project, SEH Conservation grants, and expense for bureaucratic issues (notary costs, IUCN annual fee, etc). Till August 2013, the costs included taxes filed on May 2013, Silent-Raffle and Travel Grants.

SEH supports 15 grants (Euro 200 or 300 depending on the country the winner is coming from). Grant committee managers: J. Vörös, B. Halpern). 31 grant applications have been received. The winners origin from different countries: K. Filz, M. Lambertz, M. Vamberger (Germany), E. Karameta (Greece), N. Derus (Poland), I. Damas-Moreira, I. Silva-Rocha (Portugal), R. Iosif (Romania), M. Djukaric, A. Golubovic (Serbia), D. Jablonski (Slovakia), D. Stankovic (Slovenia), E. Pojol-Buxó (Spain), G. Rosa (UK), H. Sheverdyukova (Ukraine).

S. Hauswaldt also invites the OGM to the Silent Auction.

Report of the Auditors. U. Joger reports that the treasurer's assignments were performed correctly. A.R. Di Cerbo informs that the candidates for the Auditor position are Prof W. Böhme and Dr D. Rödder (Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig Bonn, Germany). Election result: W. Böhme (37 in favor, 0 against, 5 abstentions); D. Rödder (40 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions). The Assembly approves both candidates.

Reports of the Editors of Amphibia-Reptilia. Delivered by S. Steinfartz. He reports that the new cover page of the journal is in progress. The journal has a new online system, with an option which enables to track the submitted manuscripts. In 2012 AMRE got 140 submissions (38% European contributions and an high amount of South American papers). It is planned to have open access review papers and therefore they are welcomed. Rejection rate was proportionally high contributing to the quality of the accepted manuscripts. Thanks to a large editorial board the mean procession time was 55 days, which is reputed quite fast. Average processing time from the submission to the publication of the paper is 6 months, the fastest was 45 days. Early view option is in preparation. Journal is covered by ISI WoS making publication attractive for the scientific public. Impact factor for 2012 was 0.680 which is somewhat lower

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than in 2011 (1.056), but average impact factor for 5 years did not change (1.058 in 2011 and 1.074 in 2012). If there are troubles with the ID to access the journal online it has to be reported to the Council.

Reports of the Editors of Herpetology Notes. S. Steinfartz reports on the SEH online journal instead of Z. Takacs who had to leave earlier. Herpetology Notes aroused upon an idea of M. Vences as a sister journal to Amphibia-Reptilia. It is exclusively an online and open access journal characterized by a large editorial board. Instructions to the authors are reported on the journal web page. Beside reports and short notes, this journal also publishes special series, the last of which was a special volume dedicated to the European Pond Terrapin conservation actions.

Report of the Mapping Committee. N. Sillero presents the work in progress concerning the updated version of the Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles of Europe which will result in the production of online distribution maps and relative digitized distribution data (a one year SEH grant has been devoted to this project). A paper related to the new SEH Atlas has been submitted to Amphibia-Reptilia while the relative SEH web page is accessible online (the main server, located in Portugal, is connected with the single national societies). The current activity regards the implementation of the managing tools which will be presented to all the countries interested in joining the project.

Report of the Conservation Committee. Chairman of the Committee T. Gent informs that since 30 years the Committee is engaged in making action plans and in following the Habitat Directive. In the last years old members got retired. The Committee developed a web page, a blog and a Facebook page. The Committee was involved in a LIFE project on the Meadow Viper where representatives of 12 countries took part. The Committee aims to continue to follow the European Habitat Forum and to be engaged in the Bern Convention and species action plans. The Committee was also actively involved in conservation policy work. The Committee members organized two workshops on conservation hot topics in the ongoing SEH meeting. A Committee meeting was also held. Recently the Council decided to review the structure of CC, and to transfer management of the annual SEH conservation grant to the CC.

Changes of the Statutes and By-laws. A.R. Di Cerbo reminds that changes in the Statute and bylaws were posted on the SEH web page and also published in issue 34 (2013) of Amphibia – Reptilia (News section, pages: 275-294). The members vote: in favor 26, 0 against and 16 restrained. The changes were approved.

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Election of new members and renewal/confirmation of the position of the President (C. Corti), J. Crnobrnja-Isailović (Vice Secretary), S. Hauswaldt (Treasurer), S. Ursenbacher (Second Co-Editor). All Council members are re-elected (voting members: 42): President C. Corti (38 for, 0 against, 4 restrained), Vice-secretary J. Crnobrnja – Isailović (40 for, 0 against, 2 restrained), Treasurer S. Hauswaldt (40 for, 0 against, 2 restrained), Second Co-editor S. Ursenbacher (40 for, 0 against, 2 restrained).

Student travel grant award ceremony. This is the first time that SEH is setting up a student travel grant to attend the SEH General Ordinary Meetings. S. Hauswaldt reports the names of the grant winners. Grants are given for both oral and poster presentations. 31 are the applications received. The President welcomes the winners, acknowledges their efforts and wished them a successful career.

Varia. Both Mapping (N. Sillero) and Conservation (T. Gent) committee chairmen are approved by the Assembly. As follow the two countries that have offered to organize the 18th SEH OGM which will be held in 2015 introduced by the President: Poland (B. Borczyk, University of Wroclaw) and Germany (W. Böhme, Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn). She kindly informs that, in order to keep costs as low as possible, to allow both students and young scientists to attend the meetings the Council will consider only those proposals which do not employ professional companies for the organization of the OGM. Both candidates are kindly requested to send their official proposals to the Council as soon as possible.

Closing the congress the President acknowledges all participants as well as all those involved in the organization of this fruitful meeting. A particular thank to J. Voros and H. Balint.

Closing. The Meeting closes on August 24st, at 7:00 pm.

Claudia Corti

Anna Rita Di Cerbo

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(SEH President)

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(SEH General Secretary)

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