



SOCIETAS EUROPAEA HERPETOLOGICA

Wednesday, September 9th 2015, 17:00 – 18:45

WROCLAW 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015 – 18TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, 2015

AGENDA

Council members:

C. Corti (President)/present
U. Fritz (Vice President)/absent
A.R. Di Cerbo (General Secretary)/absent
J. Crnobrnja-Isailović (Vice Secretary)/present
S. Hauswaldt (Treasurer)/absent
P. Lymberakis (Vice Treasurer)/present
S. Steinfartz (First Co-Editor)/absent
S. Ursenbacher (Second Co-Editor)/present

Invited members:

N. Sillero (Chairman of the Mapping Task Force)/present
Tony Gent (Chairman of the Conservation Task Force)/present
W. Böhme (Chairman of the Taxonomic Task Force)/present
M. Vences (Editor of Herpetology Notes)/absent

Venue:

University of Wrocław,
Department of Chemistry,
ul. F. Joliot-Curie 14

Time:

9th September 2015: 17:00 – 18:45

Societas Europaea Herpetologica www.seh-herpetology.org

President:

Dr. Claudia Corti
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General Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Dr. Susanne Hauswaldt
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1. Report of the President
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. Report of the Auditors
4. Report of the Editor of Amphibia-Reptilia
5. Roadmap on how to proceed on the edition of AMRE
6. Report of the Editor of Herpetology Notes
7. Report of Mapping Task Force
8. Report of Conservation Task Force
9. Report of the Taxonomy Task Force
10. Election of new members and renewal/confirmation of the position of Vice President (Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou), General Secretary (Dan Cogălniceanu), Vice-Treasurer (Petros Lymberakis), First Co-Editor (Sebastian Steinfartz)
11. Varia

1. Prior reporting the SEH President's activities from 2013 to 2015, C. Corti asked all attending members to observe one minute silence in honor of the recently deceased colleagues: Valery K. Eremchenko (1949-2014), Tatiana I. Kotenko (1949-2013), Werner Mayer (1943-2015), Margarita Metallinou (1985-2015), Miklós Puky (1961-2015).

She acknowledged all the Council Members and Committee coordinators for their invaluable contribution to the Society as well as some other colleagues, such as the Editorial Team of Herpetology Notes and Mathieu Denoel for his advisory activity concerning "Amphibia-Reptilia". Besides carrying out the ordinary duties and activities (such as the administrative ones, support for external conservation actions as for *Vipera ursinii* in Albania, etc.), several actions were either promoted or finalized, e.g.: - the adjustment of the statute and bylaws to the German legislation is almost completed thanks to Susanne Hauswaldt and Uwe Fritz whose efficiently took care of that issue; - the activities related to the European Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles, managed by Neftali Sillero and the SEH Mapping Committee, are ongoing, the new maps are now published and available on our website, the related paper (published in the volume 35 of AMRE) can be for free downloaded from the SEH webpage; - the agreement between the Alexander Koenig Museum in Bonn and SEH was recently signed, the Archive of the Society is now located in the Library of the Herpetological Department of the Museum. All the documents and printed copies of the SEH publications (e.g. AMRE, OGM Proceeding volumes, etc.) are also stored there. Such agreement could not be achieved without the invaluable support of Prof. Wolfgang Böhme; - collaboration with the "World Congress of Herpetology" has been established in order to create a global network among herpetologists and collaboration for the next World Congress, which will be held in China in 2016, is ongoing.

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2. P. Lymberakis presented Treasurer's report. SEH currently has 251 members from 38 countries (147 ordinary ones, 19 students, 22 online ones, 7 corporate, 3 honorary, 4 lifetime ones, 3 affiliated and 59 those who pay minimal membership fee of 15 EUR). Most members are German residents, followed by those from USA. Finances were obtained mostly from membership fees, and most of costs are related to printing of "Amphibia-Reptilia". On December 31st 2014 the balance was equal to 19,972.93 EUR.
3. S. Steinfartz prepared Auditors report instead of W. Böhme and D. Rodder and sent it via e-mail. He approved annual reports of the Treasurer as well as data base used for accounting, cash, and vouchers. The documents were found correct and in best order.
4. S. Ursenbacher reported on publishing dynamic in "Amphibia-Reptilia". From 2009 to 2014 number of submitted manuscripts varied from 118 to 160, and number of accepted articles decreased from 80 to 60 in 2015. Journal's impact factor (IF) was the lowest in 2012 (appr. 0.70) and the highest in 2013 (appr. 1.20). IF for 5 years has been fluctuating around 1.0. Future plans include increase of IF, engagement of additional associate editors to increase efficiency of manuscript processing and improvement of publishing conditions.
5. Society members were informed on Council's proposal to Brill publishing company to modify existing contract for managing "Amphibia-Reptilia". Council requirements include change of the contract in favor of the Society e.g. fixed publishing costs for five years, more transparent communication with Brill, providing partial open-access option with discount rates for Society members, and making old articles freely available on the web. Council already started negotiations with Brill via company representative who was attending both pre-OGM and OGM meeting.
6. Managing Editor of "Herpetology Notes" M. Vences sent report on ongoing problems in functioning of the journal via e-mail. Since 2014, journal has been moved to Biotaxa website and reached financial stability, but being online-only and receiving enormous number of submissions, it urgently needs additional ten associate editors and also a new managing editor, as M. Vences must resign in October 2015.
7. N. Sillero reported on activities of Mapping Committee related to the further improvement of Society's new online version of Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles of Europe. He mentioned that the compilation article has not been cited as much as expected and proposed additional actions to overcome this problem. He informed Society that the client software for the NA2RE system is

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finished and that the testing of clients will start soon. The Committee is currently developing a new version of the NA2RE website suitable for notebooks and tablets.

8. T. Gent reported on activities of Conservation Committee (CC), what included analysis of gap in communication between Council and the CC. Committee continued to organize one meeting per year and also to run the SEH's conservation grants scheme in 2014. Due to misunderstanding in communication CC jury was unable to confirm the grant for 2015 on time and so the program was not run this year. Through a project initiated in summer 2014, CC was keen to explore priority species and priority issues for the work of SEH. The Committee has provided comments to the European Commission in connection with the new Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 and are keen to emphasize the link between non-native species and diseases. Members of CC aim collectively to promote cooperation between countries and authorities and in particular to research of pathways and raise awareness of the link between pet trade and diseases in wild herpetofauna. CC represented SEH at the Bern Convention's Group of Experts on the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Switzerland, July 2015. They gave a presentation of the work of the Society on conservation. Considerable Public communication/networking has been achieved through an active Facebook pages.
9. W. Böhme informed Society on re-establishment of Taxonomic Committee and invited members to take part in its future activities.
10. Elections were started with establishment of Voting Committee consisted of M. Denöel and F. Ficotola. According to the evidence list prepared by Treasurer, 39 of present Society members had right to vote as they have payed membership fee for the current year. A. Kaliontzopoulou was elected as Vice-president with 36 votes for and 3 against; D. Cogălniceanu was elected General secretary with 30 votes for, two votes against and 7 votes abstained; P. Lymberakis was re-elected Vice-treasurer with 32 votes for, one against and 6 votes abstained; S. Steinfartz was re-elected First Co-Editor of "Amphibia-Reptilia" with 31 votes for, two votes against and 6 votes abstained.
11. Varia:
12. The Treasurer in the report sent informed Society on the proposed change of the Article §5.3. of the Statute that must be approved by the members, in order to be in accordance with the German legislation system. Previous version: "In the Sense of Article 6 of BGB of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Executive Committee is formed by all members of the Council. President and treasurer can represent the association legally and extra judicially". Final version that fits the German legislation system has to be: "In the Sense of Article 6 of BGB of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Executive Committee is formed by all members of the Council.

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President and treasurer can represent the association by themselves, but all other Council members can represent the society in pairs of two conjointly”. The recommendation of the municipal court was to add the following sentence under Article §8.1., to avoid wording problems with the court in the future: “The Council is entitled to conduct formal changes to the statutes required by the municipal court”. At the OGM the Society accepted the proposed changes.

13. The Treasurer in the report also informed the Society that SEH membership fee payments via credit card will stop in September 2016 due to closing of Zen Scientist. The Society should switch to PayPal or find other payment options.
14. Position of the new Treasurer will be opened in 2017 and SEH members were kindly asked to propose adequate candidates. According to the rule, Treasurer must be of German citizenship. Applications should be sent to SEH General Secretary.
15. Two locations are proposed for the new venue in 2017: first proposal came for Salzburg in Austria and second for Syros Island in Greece. C. Corti reminded interested parties to apply via mail to the Council for organization of next SEH conference.

President

Vice – Secretary

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