

Extracts from the meeting of the Pigeon Branch of the EE held at Leusden / Netherlands on 26th May 2006

The chairman Dr. Werner Lütghen opened the meeting at 8.00h. Present were delegates from 17 countries (Austria, Czechia, Croatia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Hungary). Also present were breeders from Rumania, who were going to be accepted to the EE during the general meeting. Sweden was excused. There were no informations about Bosnia-Herzegowina, Russia and Serbia-Montenegro.

The minutes from the meeting 2004 in Mondorf / Luxembourg were approved.

The chairman informed the branch about the meetings of the board of the EE at Offenbach/Germany in August 2005, at Leipzig/Germany in Febr. 2006, and at Leusden/Netherlands in May 2006. First the preliminaries for the great European show

at Leipzig on 8./10.Dec. 2006 were discussed. The showreglement had to be revised.

Furthermore the admission of a branch for small (ornamental) birds within the EE have to be prepared. Along with that a modification of the logo of the EE is necessary. A picture of a parrot is going to be integrated. Also the picture of the rabbit is going to be changed. The president of the EE is going to donate a new EE-banner with the changed logo, because the old banner of the EE has been missed since the meeting in Niederbronn.

The name of the "Tierschutzbeirat der EE" (comitee against cruelty of animals of the EE) is going to be changed in "Beirat für Tierseuchen und Tierschutz" (comitee for contagious diseases of animals and for the prevention of cruelty to animals) in order to enclose the new tasks of this comitee. Prof. Dr. Schille (D) remains chairman. He and Dr. Lothar Heinrich (D), the manager of the coming Europa show in Leipzig and the veterinary officers of Leipzig, visited the office of the EU in Bruxelles to discuss the conditions for the realization of the international contest on the 22nd May 2006.

Rumania is going to become member of the pigeon branch of the EE after fulfilling the necessary requirements.

The general secretary of the EE Gion Gross (CH) has prepared an adress-list of the EE as Exel-datei, which can be received from him. Added is also a Word-datei with informations about using the adresslist.

Since last year Hans Zürcher (CH) took after care of the Web-side of the EE (www.entente-ee.com). The Web-side will be up to date, if the branches provide informations. The branches of caviar and pigeons are ideal.

The elections for the board of the pigeon branch were held under the supervision of the general-secretary of the EE Gion Gross (CH). The previous board was reelected and will be responsible for the next three years: chairman Dr. Werner Lütghen (D), vice-chairman of the pigeon-branch and chairman of the standard-comitee Jean-Louis Frindel (F), secretary Alois Kirchhofer (CH).

During the agenda of the general-meeting of the EE the pigeon branch will support the foundation of a branch for small birds. As new revisor for the EE the pigeon branch will propose Istvan Rohringer (H).

In a retrospective view on European shows for special breeds during the last season it must be noted with regret, that only five out of 13 contests could be realized due to the birds flu in wild birds in Europe. These were the European show for Modena and Mondain in Bulle (CH), for Saxonian breeds and Icepigeons in Zwönitz (D) and also for Lynx in Neudrossenfeld (D). These shows were mostly accepted by the breeders and many birds were penned. These European contests lead to harmonize the picture of the breed, without the different colours in some countries.

For the season 2006/07 no European shows for special breeds will be acknowledged regarding the great European show in Leipzig (D). For the season 2007/08 the following shows were acknowledged: Danzig Highflyers and shortbeaked Owls in Cologne (D), Montauban in Metz (F), Jacobin in Schopfloch (D) and Vienna and Budapest Highflyers in Barleben (D). The interest for European shows for special breeds or breedgroups increase also in the other branches of the EE.

Detailed informations about the coming European show in Leipzig were given by the chairman of the management comitee for this event. A regulation from the EU will be awarded on the base of a paper of Prof. Dr. Osterhaus from the University of Rotterdam, which is valid also for other great shows in Europe. All countries must announce their contactperson for the show immediately. First registration

papers will be distributed during the meeting in Leusden. The associations shall announce the necessary judges according to their numbers of registered animals.

On 30./31. Oct. 2006 a meeting of the board of the EE together with the management-committee of the show will take place in Leipzig (D). On this day the chairpersons of the branches together with the management-committee will classify the judges for their job. The judging-cards must be written in the official languages of the EE, which are English, French or German. Therefore only judges should be announced, who are able to write down their critique in these languages. Otherwise a translator on own costs must be presented. All judges must participate on the information-evening before the judgement.

According to the regulation for European exhibitions Dr. Werner Lüthgen (D) and Jean-Louis Frindel (F) are members of the grand jury. As third member Istvan Rohringer (H) was named by the branch. This committee is responsible for the evaluation of the European champion and the European master. The members of the European standardcommission will be named as formen, also the members of the German standardcommission. All these persons are delivered from judging. Their duty is the harmonising of the judging.

The composition of the European standardcommission remains as in former years. The report on the meetings of this group was given by the Chairman Jean-Louis Frindel (F). During the meeting in Beek (NL) a draft of an arrangement for an European standard for pigeons was prepared, which was finally discussed in Leusden (NL). The pigeon branch accepted this paper. The European standard for pigeons combined the breedlist for pigeons of the EE with the national standards.

About the differences between the English standard for Pigeons and the standards in the other European countries in Beek (NL) was spoken. In some cases the new English standards used the new coloured pictures from the German standard, which do not agree with the printed text.

On the agenda of the meeting in Beek was also the judging of different numbers of primary wings in some breeds. It was referred to a conclusion from Bergamo (I) in 1996, which is still valid. 10 primary wings on each side should be striven for, but also 9 or 11 primary could be tolerated, according to the size of the body. Such a deviation leads to minor points in some countries. In Beek primarily pigeonbreeds from the Netherlands, but also the Belgian Ringbeater, were presented and their evaluation was discussed.

The Austrian "Fischertaube" and the Abu Abse-Dewlap were added to the European breedlist. Germany informed the branch that the Seldschuken were converted from the tumblers to the structure pigeons.

Differences in the standardized text of the King between the USA and Europe were discussed, but the judging in all parts of the world is the same. Differences have also been found in the standardized texts in Germany and the Netherlands of the Szegediner Tumbler and the Southbatschkaer Tumbler in Hungary, which were formerly the same breed. This issue must be put to the vote between Germany and Hungary.

A new breedlist was not distributed, because only a few additions are necessary.

Regarding the planning of a regulation for the European standardcommission of the poultry branch it was decided, that the regulation for the pigeon branch should not be changed. Especially the number of members should not be raised.

The next refresher course is going to be prepared together with the poultry branch in Murten (CH) on 15./17. Sept. 2006. In 2007 the refresher course will take place in Poland near the capital Warsaw.

In the report about the activities in the internet from the EE it was stated, that a positive development had taken place, since Hans Zürcher (CH) has taken over the duty as a webmaster. All informations will be published in German, English and French in time. Prerequisite is an early information of the chairman of the pigeonbranch.

The addresslist of the delegates and also a list with the names of the presidents and the treasurers of the associated countries were distributed. These lists will be published in the internet. This also means the list of the chairmen of the national standardcommissions, which is not complete yet. An overview on the important national exhibitions in Europe for the coming season was also distributed, but this paper was incomplete, perhaps because of the bird flu in Europe. The missing informations should be sent to the chairman of the pigeon branch immediately. These informations will be put into the internet later.

The delegate of Belgium André Legrand presented some informations about the small animal association in his country. According to the two languages in Belgium the organization is doubled with

a branch for the Frenchspeaking people and a branch for the Flemishspeaking people. Only on the top there are one board. About 2.500 members belong to the organization, from which 50 % are pigeonbreeders. For comparison: Belgium has more than 200.000 breeders of racingpigeons. In an organization for judges for small animals are about 100 members, from which 40 are judges for pigeons.

The situation in Slovenia was presented by Igor Cegovnik (SLO). The country has 2 million inhabitants and was separated from Jugoslavia in 1991. The breeders of small animals are organized in 35 clubs and two special-clubs. They mainly live in the mountains, and only some persons near the coast. The association encloses five branches (like the EE). There are about 360 pigeonbreeders and 11 judges for pigeons. Every year about 12.000 bands for pigeons are distributed. In the national exhibition about 700 pigeons were presented.

During the next meeting in 2007 the associations of Italy and Spain are presented.

Under the point further questions the use of the European judging system (90 – 97 points without a written commentar) was discussed. It was stated that there are some differences in some countries.

The harmonious and productive meeting was closed at 14,30 h. The delegates met afterwards for the traditional group-foto.

Prepared by Dr. Werner Lüthgen, chairman.