



Minutes of the 82nd General Assembly of September 18th, 2021, in Billund / DK

President:	Gion Gross
Minutes:	Esther Huwiler
Attendance:	107 delegates with 78 voting cards
Guests:	Martina Gerker from Kleintiernews, guests from San Marino, North Macedonia, Estonia, Lithuania and Kosovo
Start:	13:30 o' clock
End:	17:05 o' clock

Agenda

!Fin de formule inattendue

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Introduction

Finally!

Finally, we are allowed to meet once again, albeit under special conditions. The pandemic is far from over. So let us endeavour to do our part to ensure that we soon completely overcome this epidemic.

But not only Covid 19 has changed our lives, restricted our activities and sometimes made them completely impossible. The storms of mid-July caused a lot of tragedy, cost human lives and many lost all their belongings. And there were certainly also small animal breeders among them who are now in front of a ruin. Whenever and wherever possible, we should support them now, be it with donations to the BDRG account, with hatching eggs or with breeding animals.

Today's general assembly is extraordinary. It does not take place during Ascension Day as usual and is one day shorter than before. But we are glad that we can hold this meeting at all after it has been cancelled by Austria. Therefore, I would like to thank our treasurer, Willy Littau, for organizing this conference for us at short notice and for allowing me to say: a warm welcome to the 82nd general assembly of the Entente Européenne!

The agenda for today's General Assembly has been sent to everyone and could be downloaded from the website. Gion Gross proposes adding an additional item "Europe Show 2022 in Kielce / PL" as item 13 on the agenda. Otherwise, there are no further change requests.

Decision: «Europe Show 2022 in Kielce / PL» is unanimously added as item 13 to the agenda.

1. Opening, welcome

Our honorary president Urs Freiburghaus had to excuse himself because of a wedding in the family. A special welcome goes all the honorary members present.

Also specially welcomed are:

- Bronze sponsor: Martina Gerker from Kleintiernews

Are excused:

- Urs Freiburghaus
- André Legrand
- Peter Mickmann
- Joseph Rey-Bellet
- Hans-Ulrich Schmid
- Franz Schuster
- Karlheinz Sollfrank
- Hermann Stroblmair
- Thérèse (Micky) Tompers
- Dietmar Kleditsch
- Graham Giddings
- Ziaja Götz
- Daniel Hans
- Mihailov Mihail

All those who could not attend this meeting because of health reasons we wish a quick recovery, and we hope to see them again at next year's meeting.

Since last year again several of our members, who have stood up for our cause for many years, even decades, have left us forever. In gratitude we commemorate all our dead members with a minute's silence.

Gion Gross Gion Gross would like to thank the translators Jean-Louis Frindel and Urs Lochmann, who for many years accept this challenging task without any compensation but our biggest recognition. The delegates thank them with a big applause.

2. Recording attendance

Total attendance:	107
Voting cards:	78
Absolute majority:	40

Election of the vote counters:

Decision: *as vote counters are unanimously elected:*

- Heinz Hochuli, Switzerland
- Peter Žuffa, Czech Republic

3. Minutes of the EE-meeting of June 1st, 2019, in Trogir / HR

Decision: *The minutes of last year's General Assembly were unanimously approved off with a big applause.*

Gion Gross thanked Esther Huwiler for writing the exhaustive minutes and for her work.

4. President's report

Decision: *The president's report was unanimously approved off.*

The Vice-president Istvan Rohringer thanked him for his exceptional work during the entire year.

5. General secretary's report

Decision: *The general secretary's report was unanimously approved off.*

Gion Gross thanked her for her enormous dedication. This was the final report of our general secretary. It's a shame, not only those present will think, because the Presidium is also sad that Esther Huwiler has resigned. But this decision has to be accepted.

6. Reports of the section chairman (Poultry, Pigeons, Birds, Rabbits, Cavy)

The chairman of the sections reported about their meetings. We refer to the section minutes for more information.

Gion Gross thanked the section chairmen, their secretaries and the members of the standard commissions for their devotion.

7. Report of the chairman of the Animal welfare and health committee

The report of Prof. Dr. Joachim Schille is noted and will be published on the EE website.

Our chairman of the welfare committee also read out his last report. Gion Gross also thanks him very much for the many years of work for our association. Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille leaves after 17 years. Dr. med. Joseph Rey-Bellet is leaving the committee after 14 years.

8. Treasurer's and auditor's report

The treasurer, Willy Littau, informs the assembly about the finances:

Balance on per 01.01.2019:	EUR	102'897
Total income:	EUR	40'350
Total expenses:	EUR	20'557
Balance on per 31.12.2019:	EUR	122'690
Balance on per 01.01.2020:	EUR	122'690
Total income:	EUR	31'749
Total expenses:	EUR	8'919
Balance on 31.12.2020:	EUR	145'520

The auditors Markus Eber and Jean-Maurice Tièche for once had a double job because they had to check the finances of two calendar years.

Markus Eber reads out the auditor's report which certifies an immaculate job by the treasurer and recommends approval of the treasurer's report.

Decision: *The financial report and the auditors' report of 2019 are unanimously approved, and the treasurer and the presidium are discharged.*

Decision: *The financial report and the auditors' report of 2020 are unanimously approved, and the treasurer and the presidium are discharged.*

Gion Gross thanks Willy Littau and the auditors for a job well done.

9. Elections

Last year the president and the treasurer would have stood for election. Since the assembly had to be cancelled, they “were allowed” to stay in office for another year. So that the normal rhythm is restored, they should now only be elected for two years. Both have not announced their resignation, which is why they are standing for election.

However, Gion Gross announced, should he be elected, that he would step down in 2023 or, depending on the situation, at the latest in 2025.

9.1 President for 2 years

Decision: Gion Gross is unanimously re-elected with a big applause.

9.2 Treasurer for 2 years

Decision: Willy Littau is unanimously re-elected with a big applause.

9.3 Vice-president

Decision: Istvan Rohringer is unanimously re-elected with a big applause.

9.4 General secretary

As already mentioned, Esther Huwiler is stepping down as General Secretary. By now we have received the candidacy of Jeannine Jehl from France. There are no further candidacies from the assembly.

Yvon Weissenbacher as a representative of the French federation presents Jeannine Jehl.

Decision: Jeannine Jehl from France is unanimously elected with a big applause.

Jeannine Jehl thanks everyone and accepts the mandate.

9.5 Chairman of the Animal welfare and health committee

Our esteemed Chairman of the welfare committee, Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille is stepping down from his office today.

Drs. Erik Apperlo, who is already a member of the committee applies for this mandate. There are no further candidacies from the assembly.

Decision: Erik Apperlo from the Netherlands is unanimously elected with a big applause.

Erik Apperlo thanks everyone and accepts the mandate.

9.6 Reserve auditor

Markus stops as auditor as prescribed by the constitution and Jean-Maurice-Tièche steps up from second to first auditor.

The current reserve auditor, Klaas van der Hoek, becomes 2nd auditor.

Thom Laming applies for the mandate of reserve auditor. There are no further candidacies from the assembly.

Decision: *Thom Laming from the Netherlands is unanimously elected reserve auditor with a big applause.*

9.7 Confirmation of the chairman of the rabbit section

In the morning, Wolfgang Vogt was elected to succeed Rainer Retschitzegger as chairman of the rabbit section. According to the statutes, the general assembly must confirm these elections.

Decision: *Wolfgang Vogt from Germany is unanimously confirmed with a big applause.*

Gion Gross congratulates and welcomes the new presidium members.

10. Regulations for general Europe shows

The Presidium revised the regulations for Europe shows in several meetings and they were published on the website.

Bernd Graf from Germany proposes to amend point 17 as follows: Delegations with 2000 animals per section receive 2 country booths (previously 1 country booth). This has also been done in the past.

Decision: *The proposal from Bernd Graf is unanimously accepted.*

Decision: *The present regulations including the amendment to point 17 are approved unanimously.*

Peter Iseli from Switzerland proposes there should be an annex to the regulations, in which more animal welfare issues are dealt with.

Decision: *Peter Iseli's motion is accepted by a majority and with one vote against.*

The Presidium will work out a proposal by the next General Assembly.

11. Honours

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille was a member of the welfare committee from the very beginning and, thanks to his proven expertise, his large network as far as Brussels and his negotiating skills, has achieved a great deal for our association. At Europe shows, or rather before the Europe shows, it was always he who ensured that the veterinary regulations were acceptable or even advantageous for us.

He has already deservedly received the highest honour from our association. There is no higher one in the EE, otherwise he would have deserved that too.

Gion Gross thanks him not only on behalf of the Presidium, but from all the countries in our association for everything he has done not only on the welfare committee, but also for small animal breeding in general, and wishes him all the best for the future. He hands him the latest EE medal as a thank you.

But his work has not remained unseen elsewhere, which is why he would now receive a special honour.

After a beautiful laudation from Jeannine Jehl, Prof. Dr. Schille was awarded the "Chevalier du Mérite Agricole", the ministerial order for agricultural merit in France.

Gion Gross also had to say goodbye to Dr. med. Joseph Rey-Bellet, who had also submitted his resignation at today's General Assembly. For many years he mainly represented the 'long-eared hairy ones' on the welfare committee. Gion Gross thanks him very much on behalf of everyone for his work. Dr. med. Joseph Rey-Bellet was never a man of big words - he has always preferred deeds! All the best to you and Weidmann's salvation - hunting is another hobby of yours!

To be able to give someone the highest honour of our association is always a highlight for the president as well. His two laudations for the proposed honorary members are warm and show what the people have achieved.

Roland Olinger from Luxemburg is proposed as honorary member.

Decision: *Roland Olinger from Luxemburg is unanimously and well-deservingly accepted as honorary member.*

Esther Huwiler, the resigning general secretary, is proposed as honorary member.

Decision: *Esther Huwiler from Switzerland is unanimously and well-deservingly accepted as honorary member.*

12. Proposals

No proposals were made by the member countries. Also the presidium has no proposals.

13. Europe Show 2022 in Kielce / PL

After the Europe Show in Wels was returned by the Austrian Small Animal Breeders Association, Poland immediately stepped into the breach. With the agreement of the organizers, the show was then postponed for a year, and we all hope that it will take place in Kielce from November 11th to 13th, 2022. The preparation time would simply have been too short for it to be held this year.

Gion Gross himself was able to visit a national exhibition in Kielce and see for himself that not only ideal exhibition halls are available there, the Poles also know how to organize wonderful large exhibitions.

Let us now hope that Covid and, above all, the new EU regulations will not put any more obstacles in our way.

A meeting with the organizers took place the day before. He gives a few open points regarding the contract that the organizers would like to discuss within their association.

What is new in the contract is that the minimum number of animals must be 16.000. If there are fewer animals, the show will not take place. This is understandable, as the costs for the organizers would otherwise be too great.

14. Acceptance of new members

The presidium proposes to accept the application from the association ASPA-ETCS from San Marino to the pigeon section. Alessandro Mario presents the association.

Decision: *San Marino pigeons is unanimously accepted.*

Esther Huwiler informs that some applications for admission have been received and that discussions are ongoing with the applicants. Fortunately, some are present as guests at the conference. Possibly these applications can be recommended for admission in the next year.

Denmark, birds as well as Portugal, Caviars want to leave the EE.

Decision: *The resignations are noted and there further comments to the matter.*

At the 2019 General Assembly, the membership of Lithuania, Poultry with the "Lithuanian Association of Pet and Domestic Bird Breeders (LAPDBB)" was unanimously suspended. In the meantime, new functionaries have been elected at this association who are present at the conference. But there are still more associations in the country.

Decision: Lithuania, poultry remains suspended.

15. Information on EE-meetings

2022 May 26th -29th *Bosnia-Herzegovina*

Damir Softic, Secretary of the Bosnian Association, presented the next meeting and warmly welcomes everyone to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

An application has been received from Romania to host the European meeting 2025. The delegates from Romania are present and give a presentation.

Decision: *The 2025 meeting is unanimously awarded to Romania.*

The next meetings:

2023 May 18th – 21st *Bulgaria*

2024 May 9th – 12th *Czech Republic*

2025 May 29th – June 1st *Romania*

16. Suggestions and requests

None.

17. Miscellaneous

Gion Gross points out to everyone how important it is that those present carry the information received at the conference into their associations, that they inform their people and report on this conference in their structures.

Gion Gross invites you to visit the website www.entente-ee.com regularly, as important information is published on an ongoing basis.

Our website is always only as up to date as we receive the information from the sections. They have to invest some time if they want to keep it up to date.

He asks that the new general secretary be supported by using the electronic membership administration and keeping it up to date. He expresses this wish over and over again. And just as again and again we unfortunately have to find out that we fall on deaf ears in many places. You do not do this for the Presidium, but for yourself and your association, because we then have up-to-date addresses that we can also pass on depending on the situation. This of course always in accordance with the data protection regulations.

There are no delegates who will attend the meeting for the last time this year.

Gion Gross would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their active participation, but also for the discipline, so that we were able to process our business within a due time.

Gion Gross thanks for the numerous invitations to the events. Unfortunately, we cannot always accept them, as the members of the Presidium, like most other functionaries, are also active in their national associations and also assume duties of representation there. The earlier we receive an invitation, the greater the likelihood that we can delegate someone to the event. We would like to come to you!

He also thanks for the numerous association magazines that are sent to him and which he always reads with great interest. Often he doesn't understand what's in it, but it's interesting to leaf through them just because of the beautiful pictures.

Gion Gross would like to thank Willy Littau and his crew for the short-term takeover and the impeccable organization of this conference. He presented Willy Littau and his wife Hanne Littau with a sweet present.

There are no objections to the conduct of the meeting or the voting.

We do not yet know whether we will have a quiet or rather turbulent EE year. But we know that we will face all challenges and that we will perceive and complete our tasks with joy and enthusiasm. This is what Gion Gross said at the end of the meeting in Trogir. And it were turbulent times that are unfortunately far from over. But we will master this too!

The President wishes everyone all the best, good luck in the hen house, the aviary, the loft, the rabbit hutch and the cavy enclosure and, above all, the best of health.

Closure of the meeting: 17:05 o' clock

Oberrüti / CH, September 18th 2021

President



Gion Gross

General secretary



Esther Huwiler, minutes