



Report President

We are standing before big challenges as I already mentioned in my introduction to this general assembly.

Amongst these challenges, animal protection and animal health will take a central position.

In Switzerland a new regulation was implemented which divides our breeds in categories from 0 – 3. Breeds of category 3 will be forbidden. For breeds from the categories 1 and 2, the buyer must be informed in written form about breeding them.

And already the next directive is awaiting : the killing of individual animals. They will prescribe who is allowed to kill which animals and how !

Ornamental duck can no longer be pinioned because it is a degradation of the animal and almost considered mutilation. On the other hand the degrading and mutilating dehorning of cows is still allowed and castrating dogs and cats is even advocated !

And the Swiss animal protection organisation appeal to the public to not any longer visit small animal shows as long as the rabbits are put in individual cages.

In Germany, as I was informed recently, a list is being drawn up with ornamental birds which still can be kept in captivity by breeders.

And a new, but already known since 2010, R.H.D.-virus threatens our rabbits.

Dear colleagues, these are just a few issues which momentarily mainly affect the Swiss and the Germans but we know that the other countries will, sooner or later, also be confronted with news directives and legislation.

And what can we do about it – how can we support you ?



First of all the directives and national legislation of each individual country are binding. We can supply you with these directives and we have our animal protection commission which can support you with information and advice. Very important is that you are permanently in contact with the responsible institutions in your country. More about this you will also hear in the report of the president of the animal protection commission, Professor Schille.

We are also concerned about the quarrels in the individual national federations which fight each other because each federation claims to be the only legitimate one. In this situations, our help is often expected. But how can we check which of all these contradictory statements are right ? We can merely suspend membership until the differences are solved internally. It is a shame that because of all these quarrels a lot of energy is lost – and this in a hobby that should bring us joy and recreation. Unfortunately almost always personal animosity play a key role and it usually leads to emotional instead of rational decisions.

A great source of joy are the efforts of our sections, which work very well. The judges seminars are becoming steadily more popular which results in an increasingly uniform judgement. The way leading to our goal is still very long but we are progressing, depending on the section. It is important that especially on the breed specific Europe Shows those judges are invited that visited our judging seminars and that the breed standards are interpreted as uniformly as possible.

In the last few years we economised whenever it was possible so that the balance and the liquidity plan now look better than two years ago. The presidium has reduced its meetings to a minimum and also renounced its daily allowance of 30 € and that way contributed to acceptable results. However our finances are still not that good that we can support our standard commissions better financially. Sponsoring is slowing down and this mainly due to the fact that it rests solely on the shoulders of our honorary chairman. He would be very grateful if his efforts would also be supported by the individual countries. Whenever possible we wouldn't raise the membership fee but then we need other



sources of income. This is however, and this is nothing new, absolutely not easy. I know that you are all confronted with the same problems in your own country.

After the Europe Show is before the Europe Show. The Danish, under the leadership of our treasurer, Willy Littau, are almost ready to start. The website is online and also a Facebook-page is already operational. The logo is already designed and Willy Littau has already shown us the exhibition halls and how they will be divided between the sections. The Danish will do everything that's possible to ensure us a very well organized and wonderful show and they will do everything to avoid a repeat of the chaos in Metz. Let us already start promoting this show, even if it's opening is still almost two and a half years away.

Dear colleagues, in my report I addressed just a few issues that keep us busy at the moment. But of course you'd like to go to lunch at the foreseen time. Therefore I will end my report for this year now but I don't want to do this without sincerely thanking :

First of all I'd like to kindly thank my colleagues of the Presidium. They are doing a great deal of work, before but especially also behind the scenes. We are having a good time in the Presidium and this guarantees us a good and friendly cooperation.

I also want to thank you for you for all the work you do in your federations. We know that is where the main work is done - and should be done. The exchange of knowledge and thoughts on our meetings should support this as much as possible.

I look forward to a, without a Europe Show a little less intensive, year in which we will all together invest in the safekeeping of our living cultural heritage and therefore also in small animal breeding.

Vienna, May 7th 2016

Gion P.- Gross, President EE