

Minutes of the Silva General Assembly on the 30th August 2007

Place: Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Sciences

Attendants: Paavo Pelkonen, University of Joensuu (Silva President)
Stephan Bonn, TU Dresden
Martin Ziesak, Technische Universität München, TUM
Gerhard Müller-Starck, Technische Universität München, TUM
Hubert Merkel, HAWK, Göttingen (guest)
Lech Plotkowski, Warsaw Agricultural University
Alexander Pitukhin, Petrozavodsk State University
Ernst van der Maaten, Wageningen University (student)
Dianne Wästerlund, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU)
Lauri Valsta, University of Helsinki
Irene Müller, ICA exco, BOKU Wien
Bernard Roman-Amat, ENGREF/Agroparistech
Julio Javier Diez Casero, University of Valladolid, Spain
Siegfried Lewark, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Reiner Mühlsiegl, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Pieter Schmidt, Wageningen University
Aki Villa, University of Joensuu (Secretary General)

1. Silva President Paavo Pelkonen opened the General Assembly at 9.00 local time. President nominated Aki Villa to act as a secretary of the general assembly.
2. The Secretary General Aki Villa presented decisions and discussions of the Silva General Assembly in Valencia in October 2006 and remarks on other Silva activities in 2006-2007.
3. Relationships between SILVA and EFI were discussed. Nowadays Silva is a standing committee of ICA that has to be taken into account when institutional closer cooperation will be developed. However, discussions on the membership of EFI in Silva will be continued.
4. Concerning the state of IPFE (International, global Partnership for Forestry Education) at the moment, Paavo Pelkonen told that IPFE has one person working in Joensuu and another person is planned to employ to British Columbia, Canada later. The structure of IPFE is not clear yet. One idea for IPFE is to act as a network of networks.
5. An election of the new Silva President. Professor Lewark from Freiburg and professor Müller-Starck from Munich presented so called tandem model. In this model, Freiburg and Munich divide the presidency of Silva

with each other. The idea is to join strengths and forces from both institutes. Silva will have for next four years both a president and a vice president, switching positions after two years (Gerhard Müller-Starck starting as vice-president, becoming a president by the end of 2009, Siegfried Lewark starting as a president, then becoming a vice-president). The secretary general will work at the place of the president and a deputy secretary general with the vice-president, with the expectation that work would be done in both places, as to be agreed.

DECISION: A tandem model illustrated above was accepted. Siegfried Lewark will start as a president and Gerhard Müller-Starck as a vice president. After two years they will change positions.

6. Membership fee of Silva. At the moment Silva has no membership fee. It was expressed an idea that a membership fee could be collected from Silva members. However, main part of this fee would be refunded back to those members who participate in Silva activities. It was also stated that some Silva members already pay membership fees to ICA, however not every member of Silva is a member of ICA. At the present Silva can not collect membership fees because it is not a legal entity, but a standing committee of ICA. One comment was if universities are willing to send its representatives to Silva meetings, no membership fees should be collected.

DECISION: It was decided that no membership fees will be collected until the next general assembly.

7. Status of universities of applied sciences in Silva. Martin Ziesak from Munich delivered his paper on Silva –network and colleges. In this paper, it was concluded after positive and negative justifications that colleges or universities of applied sciences should be taken to members of the Silva network. It was mentioned different self-understanding of universities and colleges and a question do we really co-operate or compete with each other. A status of universities of applied sciences in Silva is a strategic issue and Silva should put an effort to investigate it.

DECISION: A status of universities of applied sciences in Silva will be left under a preparation of the new Silva President, Siegfried Lewark until the next general assembly.

8. ICA as an accreditation body for international master programmes of the European life science universities. ICA representative Irene Müller asked an opinion of Silva on a possibility of ICA to act as an accreditation body for international master programmes of the European life science universities. According to the meeting of European Ministries of Education in London in 2007, some kind of European wide accreditation system is

possible to develop. It was emphasized that an accreditation system should be in control of life science universities.

DECISION: It will be discussed on accreditation issue in future general assemblies.

9. Next general assembly.

DECISION: After a positive feedback from the University of Copenhagen, it was decided to keep the next general assembly of the Silva network in Copenhagen in 2008. A possible date would be the 15th of May.

10. Silva President Paavo Pelkonen ended the general assembly of the Silva network at 11.45 local time.