

Minutes General Meeting

Tuesday 22 August 2017 at 16:45 in Turku, Finland

1) Welcome by the President Barbara Helm

The president Barbara Helm took chair and opened the general meeting. She welcomed the delegates to the 11th EOU meeting.

2) Attendance

208 delegates attended the general meeting.

3) Minutes of the General Meeting of 27 August 2015 in Badajoz, Spain

The minutes of the 10th general meeting have been posted to members on 28th July, 2017. Members were asked to raise any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda of the current meeting. The delegates approved these minutes unanimously.

4) Election of new Officers and Council members, headed by Tomasz Wesółowski

A new president-elect, who will be moving on to presidency in 2021, a secretary and also four new council members had to be elected. Information on retrials and candidates for election was sent as an appendix to members, and has been posted on our website on 28th July, 2017.

Tomasz Wesółowski, the past president presented the list of those officers and councils who are retiring. Those retiring from council this year are Tomasz Wesółowski, Poland, Daniela Campobello, Italy, Graham Martin, UK, Alfonso Marzal, Spain, Robert Matics, Hungary, Swen Renner, Austria and Arie van Noordwijk, The Netherlands.

Barbara Helm thanked them all cordially for their dedication and support. In particular, she thanked Tomasz for the 12 years of serving the EOU as President-Elect, President, and Past-President. She also thanked Alfonso Marzal for generously hosting us in Spain in 2015, Graham Martin for his great achievements as the 2015 Scientific Program Chair, and Swen Renner for inviting the 1st fledgling conference to Vienna.

Tomasz Wesółowski presented the list with the continuing officers and councils. These are the officers Barbara Helm (UK, currently President, new Past-President), Jan-Åke Nilsson (Sweden, currently President-Elect, now President, Oliver Conz (Germany, Treasurer) and the ordinary members Andrey Bushuev, Russia, Arne Hegemann, Sweden, Elena Arriero, Spain, James Reynolds, UK, Jan Engler, Germany, Judy Shamoun-Baranes, The Netherlands, Madeleine Scriba, Switzerland, Marko Mägi, Estonia, Matthias Weissensteiner, Austria, Péter László Pap, Romania and Tamer Albayrak, Turkey.

The following candidates are willing to fill the present vacancies: Alfonso Marzal, Spain, as president-elect, Susi Jenni-Eiermann, Switzerland, to continue as secretary, and Alexandre Roulin, Switzerland, András Liker, Hungary, Blandine Doligez, France, Grzegorz Neubauer, Poland, Mark Mainwaring, UK, Mateo Griggio, Italy, Petra

Sumasgutner, Austria, Sara Lupi, Italy and Wieland Heim, Germany, as councils. Since more candidates than vacancies were put forward, the general meeting was asked to elect via ballot paper four persons as new members of council. Daniela Campobella, Shannon Luepold, Cezary Mitrus and Arne Hegemann volunteered as tellers.

5) Treasurer's report by Oliver Conz

Oliver Conz presented the treasurer's report on behalf of council. Happily the budget of the EOU has increased by 5'505 Euros to an amount of 11'300 Euros. This income was made thanks to the good calculation of the local organiser Alfonso Marzal in Badajoz. The EOU also had an income of 450 Euro by donations. The treasurer's report was controlled and approved by the auditors Reto Spaar, Switzerland, and Johannes Kamp, Germany. The general meeting approved the report, and the auditors were re-appointed.

6) Report of Local Organising Committee

Toni Laaksonen presented a report on behalf of the local organising committee. He thanked for the empathy he and his team received after the terroristic attack which has happened in Turku at the first day of the meeting. He also thanked his team who did an amazing job and the delegates who appreciated their work. The meeting received economic support from several sponsors. Their contributions reduced the congress fee by 50 Euros per delegate. And last but not least, Toni thanked the exhibitors who are an important part of our meeting. Altogether, 406 delegates out of 36 countries, also non-Europeans, were registered.

The poster price went to Lilla Lovasz, Switzerland, and the twitching competition was won by Samuel Osinubi, South Africa, Almut Schlaich, The Netherlands, and Vanja Michel, Switzerland. Congratulations to all of them!

Barbara Helm, on behalf of the council, thanked Toni and his team for their perfect organisation and Zoltan Barta and the scientific program committee for their excellent work.

7) Report of the Fledglings

Jan Engler and Matthias Weissensteiner presented a report on activities of the early-career-stage researchers within the EOU, the fledglings.

They organised a joint meeting in Vienna, supported by the DO-G. 48 young scientists out of 12 countries took part. The meeting was very much appreciated. Young scientists have an interest to repeat such an event, and therefore they asked for invitations to venues where they could host such a meeting (please inform Jan and Matthias). The facebook group for the fledglings has increased to 310 participants. During the Turku meeting, an evening event was organised where 5 panelists were present to answer questions to 70 fledglings about the publication process. This panel meeting was followed by a social gathering.

8) Report of Council

Barbara Helm presented the delegates a report of EOU activities over the last two years on behalf of council.

The council decided to support the European Bird Breeding Atlas 2 with 500 Euros. A satellite meeting has taken place before the meeting, the migrant landbird study group, which was very successful and brought in particular strong African contributions to

Turku. Finally, Barbara invited the EOU members to use the website in between meetings and to post events and jobs there. The meeting approved the report.

9) Arrangements for future conferences

2019 conference

Péter Pap from Romania presented his invitation to all members to Cluj. The general meeting approved the invitation happily.

2021 conference

Members were invited to raise ideas for events and arrangements for future conferences. Council will be collecting suggestions for conferences in 2021 and beyond.

10) New logo

Barbara Helm presented a new version of the EOU logo which our treasurer Oli Conz has kindly developed with a designer. Current and future president, along with council, recommended the future use of this re-juvenated symbol. The general meeting applauded the new logo and thanked an anonymous donor for sponsoring it.

11) EOU at the IOC

The EOU will have a presence at the IOC 2018 in Vancouver to represent the European community of ornithology without any costs. Current ideas emphasise research on bird migration, disease or urban ecology. The Migrant Landbird Study Group (MLSG) is happy to join this effort.

12) Special Interest Groups

The EOU has encouraged special interest groups under its umbrella. A new group will be launched by Daniela Campobella, the "ENIGMA", a European network in gut microbiota of birds. More information will be posted on the EOU website.

13) Any other business

No other business was raised.

14) Election Results

186 delegates returned the ballot papers. Elected were Alfonso Marzal as president-elect and Susi Jenni-Eiermann to continue as secretary (both 182 votes, 4 abstentions) and Sara Lupi (100 votes), Petra Sumasgutner (99 votes), Alexandre Roulin (92 votes) and Blandine Doligez (80 votes) as councils. Tomasz welcomed the elected officers and councils.

15) Handing over Presidency and closing of meeting

At the closing of the meeting, Barbara Helm handed over the presidency of the EOU to Jan-Åke Nilsson.

For the protocol: Susi Jenni-Eiermann, 22 August 2017