

The EOU: General Meeting

Tuesday 15 March 2022 17:30 to 19:00 on Zoom from Giessen, Germany

Minutes

1) Welcome by the President Jan-Åke Nilsson

The President Jan-Åke Nilsson took chair and opened the general meeting. He welcomed the delegates to the 13th EOU meeting, the first to be held online due to the pandemic.

He informed the delegates about the sad passing of our council member Matteo Griggio in May 2020 and our former president (2009-2013) Tomasz Wesołowski in July 2021.

The EOU thanks Tomasz for his devotion to develop and strengthen the Union. The assembly kept a minute of silence in honour of the deceased members.

The president thanked the organizing team for their immense effort to prepare this meeting despite the complicated situation during the pandemic. He also thanked the 6 plenary speakers for their inspiring and excellent talks.

2) Attendance

128 delegates attended the General Meeting.

3) Minutes of the General Meeting of 30 August 2019 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The minutes was sent to members and posted on the website <https://eouunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Cluj-Napoca-Minutes-General-Meeting-2019.pdf>. Members were asked to raise any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda of the current meeting.

The General Meeting approved the minutes as a correct record of the meeting via electronic vote.

4) Election of new Officers and Council members, headed by Barbara Helm

Information on retrials and candidates for election was sent to our members and was posted on our website on 1 February 2022.

The election was headed by Barbara Helm, past president. She informed about the changes in the council. Alfonso Marzal, president elect, will automatically become president and Jan-Åke Nilsson will become past president.

Those retiring or resigning from Council this year are:

Alexandre Roulin, Switzerland

András Liker, Hungary

Blandine Doligez, France

Erik Matthysen, Belgium

Grzegorz Neubauer, Poland

Mark Mainwaring, UK

Mateo Griggio, Italy

Peter László Pap, Romania

Petra Sumasgutner, Austria
Sara Lupi, Italy
Wieland Heim, Germany

Barbara thanked the retiring councils cordially for their dedication and support.

The members below will continue:

Alexander Mischenko, Russia
Andreas Nord, Sweden
Arseny Tsvey, Russia
Jordi Figuerola , Spain
Nayden Chakarov, Bulgaria
Suvi Ruuskanen, Finland
Valentyn Serebryakov, Ukraine
Zoltán Németh, Hungary

Candidates for election to fill all present vacancies:

The candidates for election were asked to shortly introduce themselves.

The delegates of the General Meeting were asked to give their vote for Péter László Pap (Romania) as our **new President-Elect**. Péter L. Pap was elected by the delegates unambiguously. Congratulations!

The delegates of the General Meeting were asked to give their vote for Dan Chamberlain (Italy) as our **new Secretary**. Dan Chamberlain was elected by the delegates unambiguously. Congratulations!

The nomination committee for Council Members consisted of Jenny Gill (UK), Leonida Fusani (Austria) and Zoltan Barta (Hungary), and was chaired by Past President Barbara Helm.

The committee asked the General Meeting to elect new **members of Council**. The following candidates stood for election:

Sanja Barišić, Croatia
Davide Dominoni, UK / Italy
Crinan Jarrett, UK / Switzerland
Ivan Maggini, Austria
Giulia Masoero, Italy / UK
Kevin Matson, Netherlands
Jenő Nagy, Hungary
Carina Nebel, Austria / Finland
Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas, Poland

Since there were only 7 free places for regular council members and 9 candidates, the 7 candidates with most votes would be elected. The following candidates were elected:

Sanja Barišić, Croatia
Davide Dominoni, UK / Italy

Ivan Maggini, Austria
Giulia Masoero, Italy / UK
Kevin Matson, Netherlands
Carina Nebel, Austria / Finland
Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas, Poland

Congratulations to the elected members! The non-elected candidates were invited to join the upcoming council meeting on 16 March 2022.

The General meeting was also asked to elect 2 auditors, Reto Spaar, who is auditor since many years, and Petra Sumasgutner, who is a new candidate. The delegates confirmed both candidates as auditors.

5) Report from the Chair and Organizing Committee

Petra Quillfeldt gave the report of the organization committee (OC). The OC faced many problems due to the pandemic and had to re-arrange the meeting several times until the final decision was taken in January 2022 to have an online meeting. Most of administration work was done by the NGO Hessische Gesellschaft für Ornithologie und Naturschutz e.V., HGON, especially by Jon Rolfes, Yvonne Schumm and Tobias Reiners. Tobias Reiners also thanked the mentioned HGON team and Sara Gärtner (involved during the first year) who additionally had to handle the administrative work of refunding. Tobias enjoyed working with the scientific chair and the EOU officers and thanked for the good cooperation. The OC received positive feedback by the > 400 people attending the conference. Jan-Åke Nilsson thanked the OC for the perfect organization.

6) Treasurer's report by Oliver Conz

Oliver Conz, the Treasurer, presented the report on behalf of Council. There was no income since 2019, because participation of the online meeting was free. Expenses since 2019 were 3250.92 € mainly for the website (hosting and maintenance) and the abstract managing tool. Thanks to the surcharge and especially the additional funding raised during the Cluj Napoca conference made, the EOU holds 22.104 €. The auditors were not present, but they have checked and agreed to the report in advance via email to officers.

The General Meeting approved the report unambiguously.

7) Report of the Scientific Program Committee

Dan Chamberlain thanked the members of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) and presented his report. In short: they started planning in May 2020. Due to the pandemic the conference date had to be changed. Four days after finalizing the scientific program on 10 January 2022, the in-person conference was cancelled.

The SPC voted for 6 plenary speakers out of 52 candidates, of whom 5 were willing to give an online presentation. 10 symposia were chosen out of 14. Dan encouraged the delegates to prepare symposium proposals for the next conference.

In total there were 346 abstract submissions, of which 41 were withdrawn. Finally accepted were: 35 for invited symposium, 15 for selected symposium, 120 for oral sessions and 129 posters. There were only 5 round table discussions proposals

submitted of which 3 were accepted, 1 was withdrawn. Dan encouraged the delegates to think of submitting a RTD covering a broad subject at the next conference.

The online conference included 6 plenaries and 68 e-posters, and 3 conveners accepted an online symposium. Attendance was at maximum 377 (at least 400 listeners) during the plenaries and between 80-120 during online symposia. Posters will be available for 10 more days. The SPC will judge and prize them.

The contributions per country were mainly from central Europe, but also from North, East and South of Europe, while there were nearly no contributions from the South-East. Altogether 32 European and non-European countries were represented. The EOU should encourage ornithologists from under- or non-represented countries to participate at the EOU conferences.

Other points: a) The Oxford abstract system worked very well. b) The role of the SPC was not always clear. They received many questions about finances (i.e. the responsibility of the organizing committee). Therefore, role of the SPC should be communicated clearly the next time. c) It was common that several separate submissions were made from the same large groups (i.e. single study systems) with often little difference between them. This should be discouraged to allow for more diversity in groups and subjects.

8) Report of the Fledglings

Zsófia Tóth presented a report on the activities of the Fledglings. Due to the pandemic, there was no fledgling meeting in 2020. A meeting is now planned for 11-13 August 2022 in Debrecen, Hungary. The fledgling group already confirmed 3 plenary speakers and they will be supported by sponsors and the university. The conference fee will be low.

9) Report of Council

Jan-Åke Nilsson presented a report of EOU activities over the last two years on behalf of Council.

- The EU common agricultural policy (CAP) is rather disastrous for the bird fauna because of more use of pesticides etc., resulting in a steep decline of birds. Nayden Chakarov wrote on behalf of the EOU a proclamation to the EU to leave this policy. On contrary, the new water framework directive of the European commission was supported by the EOU, and the EU was asked to preserve this directive. Both statements to the EU were signed by the EOU together with many other European societies.
- The last conference in Cluj Napoca, organized by Péter L. Pap was a great success in all respects. The organizers made a profit and council decided to use 7000 Euros to support travel costs of young researchers. This money is now still available because of the online meeting and will be preserved for the next meeting.

The members approved the report.

10) Arrangements for future conferences

2023 conference

The University of Lund, Sweden, offered to host the next conference, to be held 21-25 August 2023. Anders Brodin presented a proposal from the organizing committee in Lund. The conference will take place at the university and there will be interesting places for excursions and bird observations.

The delegates approved by vote that the next conference will take place in Lund.

2025 conference

Council will be collecting suggestions for conferences in 2025 and beyond. Members are invited to raise ideas for events and arrangements for future conferences, best by contacting officers or council members.

11) Any other business

Tobias Reiners, HGON: The organizers had no income because the online attendance was free. However, they had to invest money. Jan-Åke Nilsson: this problem will be treated at the council meeting.

Jan-Åke Nilsson reminded that Nayden Chakarov proposed a conservation organisation group within the EOU. Nayden will prepare a RTD at the next meeting.

Jan-Åke thanked the organizers and Dan Chamberlain for this successful meeting and the plenary speakers for their excellent talks. He cordially thanked Barbara Helm, past president, and Susi Jenni-Eiermann, secretary, for their engagement for the EOU, hoping that we will meet in person at the next conference for a more cordially appreciation of all the work they have devoted for the best of EOU. Finally, Jan-Åke hands over his presidency to Alfonso Marzal.

Alfonso Marzal thanked Tobias Reiners and the local organizers for their immense and difficult work to make this conference a success. He also thanked for the support by the EOU he experienced during the last years, and he takes over as president.

Alfonso closed the conference and looks forward to meeting in Lund 2023.

Sempach, 18 March 2022

Susi Jenni-Eiermann

EOU Secretary