

# EMPHA General Assembly



Venue : Hotel Narutis, Vilnius

Date : 21 June 2013

Present : See attached list

Minutes : Taco Zevenbergen

## **1) Opening and Welcome**

The president of EMPHA, Wieger Wiegersma, opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 4<sup>th</sup> general assembly in Vilnius. Before starting with the agenda he expressed his thanks on behalf of all the members, to Klaipedos for the dinner the previous evening. He then presented the agenda which was subsequently approved.

## **2) EMPHA antitrust reminder**

The secretary general of EMPHA, Taco Zevenbergen, then explained the do's and don'ts as summarized in the presentation as well as in the EMPHA anti trust guidelines that were handed out during the meeting.

He stressed the importance of these rules and explained that it was a standard practice for all associations that were managed by Lejeune Association Management to follow this procedure.

Before going into the agenda, the members were reminded that this meeting was organised in compliance with the legal framework as set out in art. 81 of the EC Treaty, which prohibits all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices which may affect trade between members states and which have as their object of effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the common market. It was stressed that individual company data would, under no circumstances, be made public during the meeting. The purpose of the discussions at this meeting is not to exchange individual company-related information but to identify common activities in support of the objectives of EMPHA.

## **3) Minutes General Assembly 21 June 2012**

The minutes of the meeting were dealt with page per page and were approved.

#### **4) Report Audit Committee on financial outcome 2012**

Mr. Revet as member of the audit committee reported on behalf of himself and Mr. Martini (who could not attend the meeting).

The financial outcome of 2012 had been checked by them and was approved. The audit committee proposed to the members to discharge the EMPHA board for the financial outcome of 2012. This proposal was accepted by the members.

#### **5) Financial update 2013 and budget 2014**

Mr. Zevenbergen gave an update on the current financial situation. As presented (see attached presentation) not a lot of expenses had been made so far. Despite several reminders no payment had been received from Philippine Honeycomb. In 2012, after the general assembly, Hexapainel had resigned from membership. In the meantime it had been agreed with Hexapainel that they would pay their outstanding for 2012 in instalments to the EMPHA secretariat. The first instalment had been received.

Mr. Zevenbergen then informed that he had proposed to the board to change the current website format and provider to a cheaper and easier open source system. The board had approved this proposal and currently the transfer from the old to the new website was in progress. The new system would have less maintenance costs and if required it would be easier to change to another hosting company.

Mr. Zevenbergen then presented the budget for 2014. The budget was based on 12 members and 1 associated member and on a membership fee of € 3275,- per company. The other entries in the budget however were wrongly presented, because this should be € 7500,- for 3 new members. It was remarked who could be possible to join. It was estimated that the total market would 14-15 major companies, so the number of 12 seemed ambitious.

After these remarks the budget was then approved.

#### **6) Recommendation taskforce on panel-makers to join EMPHA.**

Mr. Revet on behalf of the committee consisting of Mr. Tonelli and Mr. Gabarek, gave an update.

As definition of a panel-maker was decided that the panel should be made of paper/board and panels should be of honeycomb core.

A potential of 30 panel makers in Europe was estimated, of these 9 were already EMPHA member. A map would be made indicating the locations and names of EMPHA members producing honeycomb and/or panels.

The various pro's and con's for panel-makers to join EMPHA were then discussed. A value proposition should be developed which would make it attractive for them to join.

Subsequently a discussion enrolled about the standards and the importance of some of these for the panel-makers. This could be an interesting topic and reason for panel-makers to join and become involved in the development of these for instance the measurement methods and the conceptions. This could form a part of the value proposition for panel makers to join. Another route to attracting panel-makers to join EMPHA could be to inform the end-users about the development of the standards and so they could urge their suppliers to join EMPHA and have input in the development of the standards.

The panel-makers taskforce was asked to further look into this.

The delegates agreed to have the articles of association adapted so that panel-makers would be able to join.

## **7) Report Industry Standards Committee**

Mr Wiegiersma gave an update. The 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the Height Determination document had been sent to all members prior to the meeting for their input. He mentioned that the measuring software had been not yet working 100% correct but the last changes were expected to be made shortly.

The draft Height Determination document was then approved by the delegates and would be placed on the members only part. It would be useful if the members would start to work along the voluntary technical standards, respecting the (inter-)national competition laws. It was further proposed to contact IKEA if they would recognize the EMPHA voluntary technical standards.

## **8) Proposal EMPHA Quarterly Survey**

Mr Zevenbergen proposed a simple format for a survey that could be help to analyze market trends and assess the individual market position of the respective company.

The proposal was agreed on as an additional benefit of membership but before applying the secretariat would check if a difference between honeycomb core and panel-makers could be made. If that would not be allowed then investigated would be the option of core makers to participate as they are more.

In any case the survey could only be made if all relevant companies did participate.

In principal the delegates approved of this proposal. Mr Zevenbergen would inform the members of the outcome.

## **9) Next EMPHA meeting**

Mr. Tonelli offered to organise the next general assembly. He proposed to do this in Bologna as this was easy to reach.

All agreed on this.

The dates for meeting were established as:

**26 & 27 June 2014 in Bologna**

## **10) AOB**

No further matters arising the meeting was closed and the president thanked all for their input and participation. The general assembly was followed by a presentation from Klaipedos.

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