

## EGF Business Meeting

**13 June 2024, 09:30-10:30, Leeuwarden (the Netherlands)  
De Harmonie Stadsschouwburg, “Grote Zaal”,**

Chair: *Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar* (the Netherlands), EGF President

### MINUTES

#### 1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 09:30 with a welcome to all participants.

#### 2. Minutes of the EGF Business Meeting of 30 June 2022 in Caen, France

The minutes of the previous Business Meeting and the agenda for today's meeting have been available for download on the conference website for several days. There were no comments on the minutes.

#### 3. Report from the Executive Committee meetings of 12 June 2023 (Vilnius, Lithuania) and 10 June 2024 (Leeuwarden, the Netherlands)

The Executive Committee dealt with the following items:

- a) Programme of the 23<sup>rd</sup> EGF Symposium 2025 to be held in the United Kingdom  
The Executive Committee accepted the draft programme and decided on the next development steps (item 5).
- b) Proposal for the 31<sup>st</sup> EGF General Meeting 2026 proposed to be held in Portugal  
The Executive Committee further accepted the proposal for holding the 31<sup>st</sup> EGF General Meeting 2026 in Évora, Portugal (item 6).
- c) 24<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium in 2027  
Romania has expressed the willingness to organise the 24<sup>th</sup> EGF Symposium in 2027. The Executive Committee was pleased with the offer and gave green light for further planning.
- d) Invitation for the 32<sup>nd</sup> EGF General Meeting 2028  
The EGF got an official invitation for 2028 by Denmark to host the 32<sup>nd</sup> EGF General Meeting. The Executive Committee was delighted with the invitation and encouraged the Danish colleagues to go on with planning.
- e) EGF Fund  
The Executive Committee took note of the fact that the EGF Fund is in a healthy state. The total assets as on 31-12-2023 amounted CHF 19'328.31 or EUR 17'969.51, respectively (1 EUR = 1.07562 CHF by 31 December 2023). The decrease in assets was due to various IT expenses.

- f) EGF proceedings – How to publish Grassland Science in Europe in the future?  
The Executive Committee decided how the EGF proceedings of the Grassland Science in Europe series should be published in the future in order to optimise their value (see item 4).

#### **4. Future publication of the EGF Proceedings**

- EGF proceedings will continue to be included in the CABI Full Text Repository.
- EGF applies for an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) for the (entire) series 'Grassland Science in Europe'.
- The proceedings and their quality continue to be prepared and ensured in the responsibility of the local organising committees.
- The proceedings will be published electronically only (conference website/EGF website) at the beginning of each conference.
- Organisers of EGF conferences ensure inclusion of the proceedings in the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI).
- The new regulation will be implemented with immediate effect.

#### **5. Progress report on the 23<sup>rd</sup> EGF Symposium 2025 on ‘Multi-species swards’ to be held in Reading, United Kingdom**

*Diepenbroek* (United Kingdom), member of the organising committee, gave a short overview of the expected programme. He invited everybody to attend the EGF Symposium on “Multi-species swards”, which will be hosted by the British Grassland Society and held on 15-17 September 2025 at the University of Reading (United Kingdom).

#### **6. Arrangements for the 31<sup>st</sup> EGF General Meeting 2026 proposed to be held in Évora, Portugal**

*Fragoso de Almeida* (Portugal) presented the concept for the 31<sup>st</sup> EGF General Meeting, 13-16 April 2026 at Évora, Portugal. The theme of the meeting will focus on “Challenges and innovations for grasslands resilience”. He invited everybody to save the date and to attend the EGF General Meeting 2026 in the South of Europe.

#### **7. New EGF members; new HLPs; elections to the Executive Committee**

##### New EGF members

There are no changes to the EGF members. No applications have been received. The number remains unchanged.

##### Election of new EGF Honorary Life Presidents

The Executive Committee proposes *Kessler* (Switzerland) be nominated for election as Honorary Life President in recognition of and thanks for his 20 years of service to the EGF as Federation Secretary.

The candidate was formally elected EGF Honorary Life President with applause in an early mini EGF Business Meeting during the Conference Dinner. He was delighted and honoured and thankful for receiving this great award.

## Elections to the Executive Committee

### a) EGF President

*Fragosa de Almeida* (Portugal) was proposed as the new EGF President for the period 2024-2026, which was approved by the participants.

The new EGF president, thanked *van den Pol-van Dasselaar* and the Dutch organising committee for hosting this 30<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting in the Netherlands. On behalf of all the participants he appreciated the great work, the perfect organisation, high scientific quality and the warm hospitality.

The outgoing president handed over the EGF flag from the Netherlands to Portugal as a symbolic handover of responsibility for the next two years.

Past-president *van den Pol-van Dasselaar* continued to chair the Business Meeting.

### b) Regional representatives

The following countries were elected to the Executive Committee and approved by the EGF Business Meeting to represent their region:

- Northern Europe – Norway
- North Eastern Europe – Estonia
- Eastern Europe – Ukraine
- South Eastern Europe – Serbia

The countries will be asked to nominate their representative before the end of the year, especially young scientists in early to mid-career.

The Federation Secretary thanked *Eriksen* (Denmark), *Golinski* (Poland), *Samuil* (Romania) and *Kutnjak* (Croatia) for having represented their region during 2020-2024. He also thanked the Past-President *Peyraud* (France) for his active and valuable support during his term.

### c) Representative of EGF Scientific Advisory Board SAB

The representative of the SAB will be a person to be selected among the participating members of the next conference.

### d) Representative of Honorary Life Presidents

2025: *Nesheim* (Norway), 2026: *Hopkins* (United Kingdom).

### e) Federation Secretary

As announced two years ago, *van den Pol-van Dasselaar* (the Netherlands) replaces *Kessler* (Switzerland) as Federation Secretary after 20 years in office. She will also be Past-President for the next two years.

## 8. Reports

Report by *Elgersma* (the Netherlands), co-editor of *Grass and Forage Science*

*Grass and Forage Science* is a major English language journal that publishes the results of research and development, and reviews in all aspects of grass and forage production, management and utilization, bioenergy, equine, recreational and amenity use and environmental implications of all grassland systems.

- Online ISSN: 1365-2494 (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13652494>)
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Strengths of the journal:

- International editorial team
- High quality (replications, statistics)
- Good impact factor (2022: 2.4 / Journal citation indicator: 0.74)
- Special issues or sections (EGF2020, EGF2022, EGF2023)

Grass and Forage Science welcomes original articles, short communications, methods and technique notes and reviews.

Researchers are invited to offer their novel findings to Grass and Forage Science.

#### Reports on EGF Working Group activities – Working Group Grazing

*Hennessy* (Ireland) reported on the workshop about “Grazing for AgroEcology” held on Sunday before the conference that was attended by around 80 working group members and 40 young farmers.

The workshop allowed lots of discussion and exchanges of knowledge, opinions and ideas. A report will be developed and made available on the EGF website.

#### Report on the preparations of the XXVI IGC 2027 to be held in Leipzig, Germany

*Isselstein* (Germany), chair of the scientific committee of IGC 2027, informed about the XXVI International Grassland Congress 2027 to be held at Leipzig (Germany) on “100 years of grassland research – ways to the future” on 13-18 June 2027.

The congress will be organised by the following host organisations:

- Leibniz Centre of Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)
- Julius Kühn Institute – German Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI)
- Thünen Institute – German Federal Institute for Rural Studies, Forestry and Fisheries (TI)

Information can be found on [www.internationalgrasslands.org/2027-igc](http://www.internationalgrasslands.org/2027-igc), subscription for the IGC 2027 newsletter is possible by sending an e-mail to [igc2027@zalf.de](mailto:igc2027@zalf.de).

## 9. Any other business

There were no requests to speak.

## 10. Closing

*Van den Pol-van Dasselaar* thanked everyone for attending the 30<sup>th</sup> EGF General Meeting and the today’s Business Meeting. She is looking forward to the new task and hopes to see many again in Reading 2025 and Évora 2026 and wished everyone a safe journey home.

She closed the Business Meeting at 10:30.

Dronten and Hedingen, 13 July 2024



Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar  
Past-President



Willy Kessler  
Former Federation Secretary