

**Minutes of the EFIATLANTIC / IEFC Annual meeting
USC, Santiago de Compostela
May 12th 2011**

The EFIATLANTIC / IEFC annual meeting was organised in partnership with the University of Santiago de Compostela, on May 12th 2011. The meeting was chaired by the IEFC President Ted Farrell. There were 19 delegates attending the meeting, representing 11 member organisations.

- **NEIKER** represented by Ander Gonzalez Arias
- **IKT** represented by Alejandro Cantero
- **CRPF** represented by Yves Lesgourgues
- **Forest Research** represented by Richard Jinks
- **TRAGSA** represented by Francisco Lario Leza
- **UCD** represented by Ted Farrell
- **INRA** represented by Jean Michel Carnus
- **FGUVA** represented by Julio Diez Casero
- **ISA** represented by Maria Helena Almeida
- **GAVRN** represented by Carmen Traver
- **USC** represented by Agustin Merino

Non members:

The evaluation team of the EFIATLANTIC also attended the meeting: Leena Paavilainen from METLA and Carlos Gracia from the EFI SAB.

Main decisions

1. The next annual meeting will take place in the Azores during spring next year.
2. The budgets of 2010 and 2011 were approved.
3. The types of actions to be achieved in the future were identified on the base of the advisory group work.
4. Main strategy for staff evolution would be to maintain the existing capacity and launch a PhD on economics as existing capacity in the atlantic network is weak.

Welcome address

The President and Chairman of this meeting Ted Farrell opened the meeting addressing a word in the memory of Marie Pierre Reviron that left us tragically last year. He then welcomed all the members of the IEFC attending the meeting and the two members of the evaluation team of the EFIATLANTIC. He also welcomed the new EFIATLANTIC staff, Luisa DiLucchio, Junior Researcher that started on September 2010 and Céline Krier, Communication Officer that started on April 2011.

Meeting development

Presentation of the EFI recent changes by Christophe Orazio

C.O. has presented the main changes that have occurred in the EFI structure.

Comments:

Jean Michel Carnus asked what the total of the EFI staff was at the moment. The answer was more or less 120 employees, but there is a fast growing towards 160 employees. Before the establishment of the Regional Offices there were about 60 to 70 employees.

Presentation of the last developments of the EFIATLANTIC by Ted Farrel

Ted Farrel presented the benefits for the IEFC and EFI of having created the EFIATLANTIC regional office. He also discussed about its strengths and weaknesses.

Comments:

Jean Michel Carnus said that the priority now should be given to forest resources and foresight.

Carlos Gracia stated that the lack of economics expertise was not only a weakness of the EFIATLANTIC, but it is a general problem in Europe.

Leena Paavilainen agreed saying that the EFIATLANTIC could give its contribution thinking on how to improve it.

Christophe Orazio proposed as a 1st step to have a PhD working on this topic.

Jean Michel Carnus proposed that we could create a small network to work on this issue like a Cost Action for example.

Last R&D, advocacy and networking activities by Christophe Orazio

C.O. presented the network activities that were developed on 2010, the advocacy that is being done for the planted forests, the initiatives for capacity building, the main projects that the EFIATLANTIC has worked on and the future projects opportunities.

There were no comments to this presentation.

Communication activities presented by Céline Krier

C.K. presented the main communication activities developed by the EFIATLANTIC during 2010. In the future there will be an additional effort to try to translate the EFIATLANTIC website in 4 languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese). The 1st newsletter will be published soon and there will be also an effort to do it in the 4 languages. A member of the IEFC will be presented on each newsletter. The leaflet of the EFIATLANTIC is going to be updated.

Comments:

Ted Farrel asked if the newsletter would only be available online, or if there would also be a hardcopy. The answer was that only the online version will be available, but all subscribers will receive it by email using the old IEFC newsletter mailing list.

Presentation of the REINFFORCE project by Luisa DiLucchio

L.DL. presented the project status and development. The preparation activities were presented for the state of the art, implementation of the arboreta, demonstration trials, the biological sites monitoring, the protocols and the data-base.

Comments:

Jean Michel Carnus asked if there is a long term monitoring foreseen after the end of the project. Christophe Orazio answered that each partner will ensure the continuation of their infrastructure after the end of the project. He is already working on a Consortium Agreement to continue the partnership of the REINFFORCE project with minimum commitments. Everyone agreed that this network was an added value for future project and it is a good idea to have a long term view.

Presentation of the budget by Claudia Antoniotti

C.A. presented the balance of the IEFC/EFIATLANTIC account for 2010 and the tentative budget for 2011.

There were no comments to this presentation

Miscellaneous

Agustin Merino is working in cooperation with the Erasmus Mundus programme. Students and graduated can apply for grants to do an internship in a foreign research institute, mainly during the summer season. However it is quite difficult for these students to find companies that are ready to receive them. The EFIATLANTIC network could help finding contacts of research institutes willing to participate in this programme by supplying internships for students or graduated students looking for an opportunity to gain experience on their area of studies. Listing the companies that are identified within the framework of the ROKFOR project could be good starting point.

It was decided that the next annual meeting will be in the Azores in conjunction with the visit to REINFFORCE sites, São Miguel, Portugal, during spring of next year.

Strategic Agenda

Presentation of the ROKFOR project by Christophe Orazio

C.O. presented the ROKFOR topics. This project focuses on SFM, bioproducts, bioenergy, bioconstruction. There will be an evaluation of the research capacities on each region participating in the project. Regional stakeholder panels were formed to improve the quality of the work and create more linkages. The next step will be to find synergies and finance common actions using regional research funds.

Comments:

Carlos Gracia alerted to the fact that we must be cautious when we speak about bioenergy, it comprehends many risks. We must be careful with the message we send because this energy will only cover 1% of the energy supplied by petrol. So it would be a big risk for the forest if the message about bioenergy would be misunderstood.

Open debate about the future activities of the EFIATLANTIC:

- **missing topics**
- **priorities**
- **short term actions**

Using the results of the foresight exercise done by the Advisory Group, all members had to give their contribution stating which topic should be developed by the EFIATLANTIC/IEFC within the main core activities of the EFI. The results were:

R and D: scientific and development projects should focus on:

- Competiveness: news species, added values
- Sustainability of biomass production
- Pest and diseases in cultivated forest
- Wood quality, not quantity
- Regional forest resources models for scenario analysis
- Biotic risk control, including the need for contingency substitute species
- Local research on forest health, pest and pathogens (local activities impact)
- To extend the evaluation of pilot forest profitability from Aquitaine and Northern Spain to all EFIATLANTIC regions
- Footprint evaluation

Networking (expert groups, training ...):

- Bring to all the successful solutions of forest clustering
- Technical management: soil restoration after severe degradation (wildfire, river banks...)
- Similar problems out of the Atlantic area: plantation forestry, diseases, nematode, etc.
- Information about certification: support to forest owners and companies, professional training
- Sustainability indicators and tools
- Training for TOSIA at regional level
- Socio economic networking and timber market
- Forest health networking (compulsory diagnostics)
- To increase the interregional work and budget
- New forms of communication in order to reach all stakeholders (old private forest owners have difficulties with the new information technologies)
- Support in developing countries
- Technology transfer to small forest owners



Advocacy and Policy advice

- Role of planted forests for sustainable development (international advocacy)
- To support the forest activities and the forest work
- Political problems: lack of willingness and grants
- Challenging the activism of environmental organisations
- Political policies and problems
- Need to ensure policy makers understand forestry
- Lack of government intervention (persuade good forestry)
- Environmental constraints
- Land use conflicts
- General integration of local forest policies (consistency)
- Payment for environmental services
- Decline in afforestation

Communication / Information (events, publications)

- To increase forest divulgation for the society
- Afforestation decline certification
- Political policies and land use conflicts
- Need to increase public understanding of the forestry role
- Need to transfer genetic resources to land owners
- Innovation of forest products: are we looking to the right place?
- Inform the producer
- Importance of sustainable management for forest owners
- Money vs services (to take into account what society need by asking the right questions)
- Use of wood
- Forest science health research transfer to stakeholders
- Information sharing and exchange and experiences in risks assessment and management