

Minutes of the EFIATLANTIC/IEFC Annual meeting
CMIF, Furnas, Azores, Portugal
May 3rd 2012

The EFIATLANTIC/IEFC annual meeting, organised in partnership with the CMIF, took place on 3rd May 2012. The meeting was chaired by the IEFC President Ted Farrell. 29 delegates representing 11 member organisations attended the meeting,

First name	Last name	Organisation
M ^a Helena	Almeida	UTL/ISA
Claudia	Antoniotti	EFIATLANTIC
Ander	Arias-González	NEIKER
João	Bettencourt	Azorina
Alejandro	Cantero	IKT
Amélie	Castro	CRPF Aquitaine
Sudip	Chattopadhyaya	Azorina
António	Correia	ISA
Raquel	Diaz Vazquez	CIF Lourizan
Julio	Diez	UVa
Luisa	DiLucchio	EFIATLANTIC
Carole	Doucet	Conseil Régional d'Aquitaine
Ted	Farrell	UCD
Miguel	Ferreira	Azorina
Nahia	Gartzia-Bengoetxea	NEIKER
Richard	Jinks	Forest Research
Yves	Lesgourgues	CRPF Aquitaine
Gert-Jan	Nabuurs	European Forest Institute
Aine	Ni Dhubhain	University College Dublin
Carina	Nóbrega	DRRF
Christophe	Orazio	EFIATLANTIC
Eric	Paillassa	CNPF-IDF
Patrick	Pastuszka	INRA
Alvaro	Picardo	Junta de Castilla y Leon
Malgorzata	Pietrzak	Azorina
Christian	Pinaudeau	USSE
Maria Jose	Rozados	CIF Lourizan
Luis	Silva	UAÇ
Filipe	Teixeira	Azorina
M ^a Carmen	Traver de la Iglesia	Gestión Ambiental de Navarra
Silvia	Zabalza	Gestión Ambiental de Navarra

Main decisions

1. The next annual meeting will take place in May 2013, in conjunction with the Third International Congress on Planted Forests in Lisbon.
2. The 2010 and 2011 budgets were approved.
3. The members agree to transfer the online forest expert-database to EFI as long as the quality of the service provided for IEFC and EFIATLANTIC partners remains the same and national rules are followed.

Welcome address and minutes of the Annual Meeting 2011

The meeting was chaired by the President of the IEFC, Ted Farrell, who opened the meeting and welcomed all attending IEFC members.. He also briefly referred to the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting, with a reminder of the decisions that were made:

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 basis of the advisory group work.
4. The main strategy for staff evolution would be to maintain the existing capacity, but also to launch a PhD position on economics, as existing capacity in that area in the Atlantic network is weak. C. Orazio has already asked the Ministry for funding, but as a result of the internal decision at EFI there will not be enough funds for such a position this year. He will work on how to get funding for a PhD.

Meeting development

Presentation of the last EFI changes by Gert-Jan Nabuurs (EFI)

GJN gave an update of the EFI research agendas, work, governance and external review and of developments concerning the regional offices

GJN reminded everyone that all members can contribute to the EFI research agenda directly or through the regional offices.

Presentation of the latest developments within EFIATLANTIC by Ted Farrell (IEFC)

Ted Farrell presented the mid-term evaluation of EFIATLANTIC, dealt with some administrative issues and gave an overview of the future event: “3rd International Congress on Planted Forests” that is going to be organised in collaboration with EFIATLANTIC in May next year.

Comments:

During his presentation TF reminded everyone that is important for the IEFC members to feel included in the new structure of EFIATLANTIC. In this case, is there a need for the IEFC to continue to exist? The clear answer was that, yes, IEFC is needed as some members (small labs, private companies, forest owners, etc.) that are not closely involved with EFI activities are more comfortable with the IEFC. Yves Lesgourgues from the CRPF suggested that the IEFC could serve as a Think Tank tool. The IEFC could cover the interests of forest owner associations and the EFI could cover the interests of big research institutes and Universities. We must not forget that the IEFC has very good contacts on the regional level.

However, another problem is that many members pay double membership fees: both to the IEFC and to EFI. Christian Pinaudeau suggested that the Advisory Board decide how to fix the membership issue to be voted in the next Annual meeting.

One of the points that was discussed last year was that the IEFC could put students in contact with potential employers through the Erasmus Mundus programme. A first attempt was made by USC Lugo (Spain) and UCD (Ireland). UCD found internships for three or four students from USC Lugo within two companies in Ireland. These students will work in Ireland, with

Coillte and Greenbelt. However, due to administrative problems, it is difficult to organise these exchanges within the framework of the Erasmus programme, it may be better to try with the Leonardo programme. The University of Valladolid has also expressed an interest in participating in this exchange programme.

Last R&D activities by Luisa DiLucchio

Luisa DiLucchio presented the current ongoing projects:

- The REINFFORCE project: latest developments. The project will end next year.
- TREES4future: the EFIATLANTIC will contribute to the inventory on genetic trials, linked to the REINFFORCE long term monitoring trials database.
- The INTEGRAL project: it just started this year. The goal of the project is to simulate the future of forest landscape taking into account social conflicts and forecasted policies.
- Biotic risk interface position: Margot Regolini (young scientist) working for 3 years for EFIATLANTIC and INRA, paid by INRA. The main topics of this study are: biotic risk modelling; value assessment biotic losses using a generic model and a processionary moth model.
- The EFI Policy portal contribution for Atlantic regions carried out by intern Erell Legal.
- Concerted action on profitability: good report written by Nicolas on Aquitaine and Euskadi, as Navarra was not available to provide data on 2011.
- The ROKFOR project on research needs and joint action for the forest sector related to lead markets: bioenergy, bioconstruction, bioproducts.

Some tentative projects.

Latest networking activities by Christophe Orazio

Christophe Orazio presented the current networking activities:

- The TRANZFOR exchange programme, with the participation of Christophe Orazio. The other members of IEFC/EFIATLANTIC are also invited to participate.
- The GEEF (French speaking entomologist group): EFIATLANTIC is supporting the organisation of their annual meeting.
- Concerted action on profitability: Winter Summer School. The target of this summer school will be the PhD students. It will be co-organized with XYLOSUP.
- The EVOLTREE network on genetics that is now being coordinated from Pierroton

There were no comments to this presentation.

Latest policy advice activities by Christophe Orazio

All the attendees welcomed the idea of a risk facility. Stakeholders confirmed that they consider risk as a key issue for Atlantic areas and that they expect EFIATLANTIC to be deeply involved in this facility.

Research agenda and work plan by Christophe Orazio

It was decided to create a group that will work on the EFIATLANTIC research agenda in the coming years. The group will be composed of: Jean-Michel Carnus (INRA), Christophe Orazio (EFIATLANTIC), Ander Gonzalez (NEIKER), Carole Doucet (Conseil Regional d'Aquitaine), Peter-Free Smith (FR), Maria Helena Almeida (ISA), Miguel Ferreira (CMIF), and Ted Farrell (IEFC).

The draft produced by this group will be validated by the EFIATLANTIC Advisory Board.

Communication activities Christophe Orazio

The main future event to be organised by EFIATLANTIC will be the 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests that will take place in five different countries. The plenary meeting will be held in Lisbon, during the month of May next year.

The EFIATLANTIC website and planned publications were also presented.

Project opportunities for members presented by Christophe Orazio

The different funding opportunities for future projects were presented.

Alvaro Picardo, from the Junta de Castilla y León, also presented a proposal for a future project to develop a European network on forest and climate change, composed of researchers, forest managers and stakeholders. The project could receive 50% funding within the framework of the Life + programme, but it could also be submitted to another programme. Christophe Orazio pointed out that this could be a way to fund the arboretums created by the REINFFORCE project.

Most members were interested; the first step will be to write the concept note that Alvaro will send by the end of May.

Presentation of the budget by Christian Pinaudeau and Claudia Antoniotti

No comments were made concerning the budgets.

Next annual meeting

At the end of the meeting it was decided that the next annual meeting will be in May 2013, in conjunction with the International Congress on Planted Forests in Lisbon.