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## EAAP NEWSLETTER

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## 61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The central theme of the 61st EAAP Annual Meeting held in Heraklion, Crete, Greece was the influence of demand and consumer expectations on quantity and quality of animal products. Forty-six sessions for the first time included also topics on aquaculture thus reflecting the awarness of the complexity of research and production of food of animal origin and of the need for concerted efforts and joint research in fields common to both aquatic and terrestrial animals. In his opening speech, K. Sejrsen, President of EAAP, congratulated colleagues from the Greek organizing and scientific committees for having recognized key issues affecting the animal industry today and for having developed an attractive programme that has brought to Crete over 800 participants and 92 accompanying persons.

The book of abstracts is available on the EAAP website for all the users ([http://www.eaap.org/Crete/Heraklion\\_2010\\_Abstracts.pdf](http://www.eaap.org/Crete/Heraklion_2010_Abstracts.pdf)) while presentations at the meeting are available as PDF files on the EAAP website only to those registered to the Annual Meeting (<http://www.eaap.org/Crete/index.html>)

### FROM THE OPENING SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

"In its long history, our Association has organized many events - workshops, symposia, seminars and, of course, annual meetings. Each annual meeting played an important role in the exchange of scientific information, establishing contacts with colleagues from other countries and in getting new knowledge on the continent in which we live by direct contact with people and institutions of host countries. This 61st Annual Meeting has some additional features: first, this is the second meeting hosted by our Greek colleagues, Greek Government and Greek people; second, we have the privilege of enjoying wonderful Greek hospitality from our hosts in spite of the difficult times in which we all live - restrictions, austerity, decrease in public spendings. Our appreciation to their efforts, to their courage and to their commitment to international cooperation in animal science and research".

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### FROM THE 54TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### Strategic objectives 2011

EAAP General Assembly approved the following strategic objectives for 2011:

- Improve industry participation and refine sponsorship policies in EAAP.
- Agree with a professional conference organizer for central registration, programme printing and sponsor agreement for annual meetings.
- Apply individual membership for EAAP countries.



*The Convention Centre, where the 61st EAAP Annual Meeting was held*

- Emphasize research and education for product quality, food safety, animal welfare and environmental aspects of livestock industry.
- Engage National Member Organizations' representatives (meeting at annual session).
- Improve management of abstract submissions.
- Look for agreement with other organizations.

### Thank you to outgoing members of the Council

At the General Assembly K. Sejrsen, President of EAAP on behalf of the Association thanked Sandra Edwards (UK) and Giovanni Bittante (Italy), the outgoing members of the Council, for their valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

### New Members of the Council

On the proposal of Council, the General Assembly elected Mark Maguire (Ireland) and Bruno Stefanon (Italy) as new Council members.

### Individual membership from EAAP Member countries

On the basis of Article 3c of the EAAP, Council decided to establish the individual membership for scientists and professionals from National Member Organizations. Rights and duties of individual members will be included in the EAAP By-laws and published on the EAAP web site.

### Establishment of the EAAP commercial company

The EAAP Council agreed on the need for the establishment of a limited liability company fully owned by EAAP and managed by all members of the Council in their capacity of members of the "Executive Board". The company would carry out commercial income generating activities within the mandate of the Association. An ad hoc group composed by K. Sejrsen, G. Zervas, K. Oldenbroek and A. Rosati was requested to prepare the necessary documentation for the establishment of such a limited liability company.

## FROM ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

### **Why Council Working Groups?**

Council working groups deal with specific scientific and development problems related to their mandate that might be discussed within the EAAP annual meetings in sessions, symposia and workshops organized separately or jointly with the EAAP Study Commissions. They are entitled to organize events also in the period between Annual Meetings and cooperate with other international bodies having similar programmes. They discuss issues in a broad perspective that can lead to new ideas for research and development programs in the region. A full list of working groups can be found on the eaap website. Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources

The Working Group (WG AnGR) Chaired by S. Hiemstra (NL) participates as external advisory board to the Steering Committee of the research programme EFABISnet coordinated by EAAP. The main objectives are: i.) to establish decentralized national inventories of animal genetic resources on the basis of the EFABIS database system in 12 countries;

ii.) to establish decentralized national inventories of national gene bank collections on the basis of CryoWEB database software in 10 countries; iii.) to develop a permanent management structure of the European network of animal genetic resources inventories on the national, European and international FAO level. Mr. Eildert Groeneveld, vice-president of the WG-AGR, is the technical Coordinator of EFABISnet. Developing a set of outputs/reports for the EFABIS database was scientifically supported by Gustavo Gandini (member of EAAP-WG-AGR). Several project meetings were held in 2009. After establishment of decentralized, national nodes of EFABIS and CryoWEB, the main issue for the final stage of the project is to develop options and to decide about a permanent management and support structure when the EFABISnet project will be ended. Options will be developed in the EFABISnet project.

The WG-AnGR annually proposes a topic for an AnGR related session at the Annual Meeting, preferably organized in collaboration with ERF and FAO. The involvement of ERF in EAAP sessions is important



*Part of the Centre wher Annual Meeting was held.*



considering that National Coordinators (NC) play an important role in the development of policies and strategies for conservation and sustainable use of AnGR in their country, and that NCs are counterpart to scientists and policy makers. The objective of these workshops is to contribute to a better understanding of the main principles, methods and their potential application, in day-to-day genetic management and sustainable breeding and use of farm animal populations, and to stimulate discussion among NCs on these issues.

At the 60th Annual Meeting in Barcelona, session 13 "Practical strategies and tools for the genetic management of farm animal populations, was organised jointly by the EAAP-WG-AnGR, EC funded GENRES project EURECA and ERFP. The session was chaired by M. Toro (EAAP-WG-AnGR).

At the 61st Annual Meeting in Crete, EAAP-WG-AnGR organised a Session in collaboration with FAO and ERFP titled "Strategies to add value to local breeds". The session was chaired by C. Ligda (EAAP-WG-AnGR and ERFP). Co-chairs: B. Scherf (FAO) and S.J. Hiemstra (EAAP-WG-AnGR).

The proposed session topic for EAAP 2011 in Stavanger - circulated between Norwegian scientific committee and the EAAP-WG-AnGR - is "From genetic differences to phenotypic differences".

Members of the Working Group contributed to the workshop on "Indicators for genetic diversity in livestock", organised by FAO, 9-10 February 2010. Members of the EAAP-WG-AnGR also contributed to the seminar organised by RBI/RBST in London, 16-17 February 2010 on "Breeds at risk criteria and classification".

### The Mediterranean Working Group

The Group has prepared publication proceedings of the X Mediterranean symposium held in Corte, Corsica, France. The book, "New Trends for Innovation in the Mediterranean Animal Production", will be published by Wageningen Academic Publishers in the EAAP Scientific Series. It completed preparations for the XI Symposium Animal Farming and Environment Interactions in Mediterranean Regions to be held 27 to 29 October 2010 in Zadar Croatia. At the 61st EAAP Annual Meeting held in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, it participated in sessions on animals in extreme environments and organized and on consumer attitudes to food quality products in Southern Europe, organized in cooperation with the Cattle Commission.

### XI International Mediterranean Symposium

The Mediterranean Symposium was held in Zadar (Croatia), from 27 to 29 October 2010, organized by the University of Zadar (Dr. Jozo Rogosic), EAAP and CIHEAM. The Symposium focused on improving knowledge in the field of animal-environment interactions, environmental impact of human activities on livestock systems, environmentally sustainable livestock production and aquaculture. It noted that understanding of interaction between animal and environment required more study and research taking into account different scenarios and variety of goods and services provided by livestock. Genetic variability, epi-genetic and trans-generation persistence of adaptation to local conditions, helped by genomic selection were considered as crucial factors for future livestock production in the region. High diversity of plant species in Mediterranean pastures and complementary diets may increase performance of local animal breeds. without genotype modifications.

Technical management should match animal requirements and natural resources and fulfil further societal demands (social rural development, product quality, environmentalism) and provision of environmental services in a cost-efficient way including support to fire control and landscape management.

There is a need to develop specific indicators of sustainability of livestock in the Mediterranean region taking into account economic aspects, social demands, intensification as a response to the growing demand for animal products, role of protected geographic products in supporting farm animal diversity. Session on aquaculture noted that the research and advanced practices resulted in search for high level of homeostasis and welfare of fish across different intensity levels. Changes in aquatic environment cause migration of species followed by changes in production and management practices. Adequate policy measures and integrated coastal management contribute to sustainable use of aquatic resources for food production.

Proceedings of the symposium will be published within the EAAP Scientific Series.



## Working Group - Animal Fibre

The Working Group organized in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, Poland, the Workshop "Use of animal natural fibres for the stimulation of the local small factories and local markets". The Group was involved in the organisation of the EAAP 2010 Heraklion Meeting Animal Fibre Science Section. One invited main paper was presented entitled: "Nutritional and physiologically competitive factors affecting fine fibre production in animals" by Hugh Galbraith from Aberdeen University, UK. Three communications and one poster were submitted.

The Group has organised the 5th European Symposium on South American Camelids and 1st European Meeting on Fibre Animals, held in Seville, Spain from 6th to 8th October 2010. It was also involved in the organization of the 3rd International Symposium on South American Camelids Research, held in Arequipa, Peru, from 9 to 11 September 2010. The Web site of Group ([www.fibrenetwork.net](http://www.fibrenetwork.net)), linked to the EAAP homepage, needs more implementation. The Working Group worked on an EU COST project on fine fibre production. The project, coordinated by EAAP, was presented at the end of September 2010.

## Ethics Working Group

The EAAP Ethics Working Group deals with the ethical aspects of scientific and development problems related to animal production. Among other activities carried out since the establishment of the Group in 2003, it drafted a proposal for an ethical policy for the journal "Animal" and forwarded it to the Editorial Board of the Journal. At the Annual Meeting in Crete 2010 the Working Group participated in the session on "robust cattle production systems". Elsbeth Stassen, the chair of the Group, chaired the session on "Lameness: trends and control". In November 2009 the EWG proactively took action on the preliminary program for the 61st EAAP annual meeting by contacting different commissions to see if input of the EWG could be a contribution to the different sessions.

## New Working Group - Aquaculture

The first session on aquaculture held during the 61st Annual Meeting under the chairmanship of S. Papoutsoglou indicated that a synergy with other Study Commissions and Working Groups should be sought in important fields common to aquatic and terrestrial farming, such as genetics and nutrition.

The EAAP Council at its 132nd Session held on 26th August 2010 commended the first step in including issues related to aquatic farming in the EAAP programmes and nominated S. Papoutsoglou convenor of the Aquaculture Working Group. Themes to be included in the programme for the 62nd Annual Meeting to be held in Stavanger, Norway, would be agreed by the Working Group in cooperation with scientists from Norway.

## EAAP WEB SITE

The EAAP web must be a strong and efficient tool for dissemination of scientific information and information on activities of the EAAP. The number of monthly visits varies from four to ten thousands a month. In the last 12 months the top number of visits of the website has been reached immediately after the annual meeting in Barcelona, with the attractive force of the available papers in PDF. So the annual meeting and the availability of PDF file and Book of Abstract make the site very attractive. Throughout the year, the Book of Abstracts has been downloaded around 11.200 times. the number of visits is equal to the number of downloading which can be improved by changing some existing rules and practices, such as removing password protection of PDF files, maintaining un/protected files from previous meetings, increasing availability of EAAP publications and including proceedings of workshops and symposia. The EAAP Secretariat is currently downloading papers presented at the 61st Annual Meeting in Crete.

## SCHOLARSHIPS 2011 - STAVANGER, NORWAY (29 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER, 2011)

**Before 1st March 2011 applicants must send in their request(s) to the EAAP Secretariat in Rome  
[eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org)**

Any applicants from an EAAP member country (for member country list see [www.eaap.org](http://www.eaap.org) or contact [eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org)) (maximum of 38 years of age) can apply for a grant to attend the EAAP Annual Meetings.

An applicant who already obtained a scholarship in the past cannot re-apply within 3 years. Grants are distributed subject to the financial constraints of the EAAP.

For further information please see [www.eaap2011.com](http://www.eaap2011.com) or contact directly EAAP [eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org)



The AFZ has also announced "prix de thèse 2010". This initiative will give a possibility for the winner to gain a partial scholarship in order to attend the EAAP Annual meeting in Stavanger in August 2011. For full information concerning the theme and how to participate can be obtained contacting [eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org) or [afz@agroparistech.fr](mailto:afz@agroparistech.fr). The closing date is December 20th 2010.

### CREATION OF THE SPANISH FEDERATION OF ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS (FEACA)

After the great success of the EAAP 60th Annual Meeting held in Barcelona in August 2009, the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM), through Mr. Carlos Escribano Director-General for Agricultural and Livestock Resources and President of the Spanish Organising Committee, decided to promote the creation of a Federation of Animal Science Associations currently active in Spain. The main objectives of the Federation, which was named FEACA (Federación Española de Asociaciones de Ciencia Animal), would be to advise MARM in all issues related to animal science and production, to represent MARM in the EAAP and to promote the participation of scientists and professionals from Spain in EAAP activities, through the Spanish Scientific Committee of the EAAP, and to promote animal science in Spain. Dr. Dunixi Gabiña, former Vice-President and Chair of the Scientific Committee of the EAAP, Mrs. Isabel García Sanz, Vice-President of the Spanish Organising Committee of the EAAP Annual Meeting of Barcelona, and Prof. Gerardo Caja, Executive Secretary of the Committee, were entrusted to lead this operation.

The Federation was constituted last 22 October in Madrid. Nine scientific and professional Associations and one Foundation joined the Federation, representing most of the critical mass of the Spanish researchers and professionals in Animal Science.

Prof. Angel Ruiz-Mantecón from the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) was elected as the President of FEACA and Dr. Dunixi Gabiña as the President of the Spanish Scientific Committee of the EAAP.

### ANIMAL - THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

The official journal of EAAP, in collaboration with INRA and BSAS, has increased its impact factor by nearly 50% to 1.46 after only two years. This is a truly excellent performance for a new journal. The journal is now ranked 13/49 in the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science list and is now above many other animal science journals. Submissions to the journal have increased by 20% as a result. If you want to submit a paper please go to [www.editorialmanager.com/animal](http://www.editorialmanager.com/animal)

This year in addition to submitted papers the journal has published two series on climate change from bsas and eaap meetings as well as papers from annual meeting sessions on fine-fibre producing animals and on modelling farming systems. The whole of the July issue of the journal was devoted to invited papers from the 2009 meeting of the International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology. For more information go to <http://journals.cambridge.org/anm>. If you want to be alerted to the contents of the journal please register on [www.journals.cambridge.org/anm-alerts](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/anm-alerts)

This is **your journal** and in addition to publishing original research **Animal** makes an important financial contribution to EAAP by enabling young scientists to attend the annual meeting by providing scholarships.

### UPCOMING MEETING

We would like to also bring to your attention the upcoming meeting of SAPT 2010 (Sustainable Animal Production in the Tropics) that will be held from 15-18 November 2010

Guadeloupe, Gosier. For further information please see: [https://colloque.inra.fr/sapt2010\\_eng](https://colloque.inra.fr/sapt2010_eng)